FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-012
Wednesday
19 January 1994

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Message Read at Tehran Seminar *[IRNA]* 1

Arab-Israeli Talks

Delegate Denies PLO-Israeli Cooperation on Security *[AL-QUDS 16 Jan]* 1
'Atmosphere of Pessimism' Reported at Taba Talks *[Cairo Radio]* 1
  Sha'th: Atmosphere 'More Positive' *[MENA]* 1
Security, Civilian Committees Resume Talks *[MENA]* 2
Israel-Jordan-Egypt System To Monitor Oil Spills *[Jerusalem Radio]* 2

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief Comments on Syrian-U.S. Summit *[MENA]* 2
  Discusses Israeli Boycott, Arab Unity *[MENA]* 2
Arab League Official: 12th Round Talks 'Final Test' *[Cairo Radio]* 3

Islamic Affairs

ICO Meeting on Bosnia-Herzegovina Concludes 4
  Iran's Velayati Meets Bosnian President *[Tehran Radio]* 4
  ICO Chief on Air Strikes, Troops in Bosnia *[Paris Radio]* 4
  Statement Issued on Bosnia-Herzegovina *[SPA]* 4
PLO's 'Abd-Rabbuh Arrives for ICO Follow-Up Meeting *[MENA]* 5

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Leadership To Meet on Outcome of Geneva Summit *[AL-RA'Y 18 Jan]* 5
Ross Told U.S. Should Play 'More Effective Role' *[Algiers VOP]* 5
Syrian Shift on Israel Calls Old Alliances Into Question *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 18 Jan]* . 6
Geneva Summit Seen Promoting Progress on All Tracks *[AL-QUDS 18 Jan]* 7
'Arafat Accuses Israel of Not Keeping to Accords *[Salzburg SALZBURGER NACHRICHTEN 18 Jan]* 7
'Abd-al-Shafi Says Pact 'Can Be Dealt With' *[WAKH]* 9
'Abd-al-Shafi Warns on Israeli Settlement Expansion *[Stockholm Radio]* 9
British Police To Help Train Palestinian Force *[London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH 19 Jan]* 10
50 Police Officers Cross Into Strip From Egypt *[MENA]* 10
Fatah Official: Israel Planning Civil War in West Bank *[AL-DUSTUR 16 Jan]* 10
Fatah, PPP 'About To Agree' on 'Program of Action' *[AL-RA'Y 15 Jan]* 11
  'Positive Results' Reached *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 14 Jan]* 11
Fatah Wins Gaza Strip Trade Union Elections *[DAVAR 18 Jan]* 12
Islamic Jihad's al-Shaqaqi Interviewed *[London AL-HAYAH 13 Jan]* 12
Vatican Firm on Inalienable Rights, Jerusalem *[Algiers VOP]* 14

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Amnesty for FIS Leaders 'Not Ruled Out' *[London AL-HAYAH 17 Jan]* 15
Statement by Defense Minister on Crisis *[Algiers TV]* 15
French Woman's Death Causes Concern *[Paris Radio]* 17

Egypt

Mubarak Receives Telephone Call From Syria's al-Asad *[MENA]* 17
Cabinet Reviews Geneva Summit, Bosnia, Terrorism *[Cairo TV]* 17
Paper Says Geneva Summit Creates Worries for Rabin *[MENA]* 18
Authorities Arrest 60 in Cairo Security Sweeps *[MENA]* 18
Casualties Reported in Raids *[MENA]* 18
Interior Minister Discusses Terrorism Threat *[MENA]* 18
Minister: Libya's al-Kikhya 'Refugee in Another Country' *[MENA]* 19
Information Minister Returns From Visit to Libya *[MENA]* 19
MENA Denies Sudan Claim of Free Casts to Opposition 19
France's Juppe Describes Relations as 'Excellent' *[Paris LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS 15-16 Jan]* 19
Jordan Bans Entry of Muslim Brotherhood Leader *[ROSE AL-YUSUF 17 Jan]* 20

Libya

General People's Congress To Meet in Surt on 22 Jan *[Tripoli Radio]* 20
Cabinet Venue Reportedly Moved to al-Kufrah *[ROSE AL-YUSUF 17 Jan]* 20

Morocco

Cabinet Discusses Chemical Weapons Treaty *[Rabat Radio]* 21

Sudan

Al-Bashir Cites Reasons for U.S. 'Hostility' *[Omdurman Radio]* 21
Al-Bashir Praises Redivision of States Project *[Omdurman Radio]* 21
Foreign Minister on PRC Minister's Visit *[Omdurman Radio]* 21

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Saudi Minister Welcomes U.S. Secretary to GCC Meeting *[SPA]* 23

Bahrain

Defense Minister Leaves for UK on Official Visit *[WAKH]* 24

Kuwait

Official Provides 6-Month Oil Revenue Figures *[KUNA]* 24

Oman

Qabus Tells Nation To Brace for Job Nationalization *[AFP]* 24

Saudi Arabia

Clinton Briefs Fahd Over Phone on Talks With al-Asad *[SPA]* 25
U.S. Commerce Secretary, Delegation Arrive for Visit *[SPA]* 25
King Fahd Receives Germany's Rexrodt *[SPA]* 25
Ethiopia's Seyoum on Regional Issues, Cooperation *[Riyadh Radio]* 26

United Arab Emirates

French Defense Minister Departs Following Short Visit *[WAKH]* 26

Yemen

'Document of Pledge and Accord' Signed in Aden *[Sanaa Radio]* 26
Dialogue Committee Issues Closing Statement *[Sanaa Radio]* 26

- 'Document of Pledge and Accord' Outlined *[Sanaa Radio]* ... 27
- Armed Clash Reportedly Follows Brigades' Move *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 15 Jan]* ... 29
- Military Committee Denies Reports on Military Moves *[Sanaa Radio]* ... 29
- Al-Bid Addresses YSP Secretaries Meeting *[Aden Radio]* ... 30
- Parliament Speaker Reaffirms Commitment to Unity *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 17 Jan]* . 30
- Saudi Border Talks Continue in Sanaa *[Sanaa Radio]* ... 31
- Minister on Terrorist Training, Financing *[AL-AHRAM 15 Jan]* ... 31
- Salih Confers With U.S. Ambassador in Ta'izz *[Sanaa Radio]* ... 32

IRAQ

- Saddam Delivers Gulf War Anniversary Speech *[Baghdad Radio]* ... 34
- Assassination Attempt Against Saddam Reported *[London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH 18 Jan]* ... 40
- Saddam Addresses Athens Conference Delegation *[Baghdad Radio]* ... 41
- Baghdad Reopens Defense Ministry Headquarters *[INA]* ... 41

ISRAEL

- Rabin Takes 'Positive View' of Clinton's Efforts *[Jerusalem TV]* ... 42
- Clinton Informs Rabin of Access to U.S. 'Projects' *[Jerusalem TV]* ... 42
- Syria Reportedly To Halt Support for Terrorists *[HA'ARETZ 16 Jan]* ... 42
- Academics Agree Syria Ready for 'Egyptian Model' Peace *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 42
- Rabinovich to Syrians: Referendum Not To Undermine Process *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 42
- Peres, 'Arafat To Discuss Taba Talks in Oslo 22 Jan *[Jerusalem TV]* ... 43
- Rothschild Named Acting Head of Talks Team in U.S. *[Tel Aviv Radio]* ... 43
- 'Massive' Illegal Building Reported in East Jerusalem *[HA'ARETZ 18 Jan]* ... 43
- Three Injured in Hebron as 'Hundreds' Attack IDF *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 44
  - Hebron Arab Dies of Wounds *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 44
- UNRWA Worker, 7 Arabs Wounded in Gaza Disturbances *[Jerusalem TV]* ... 44
  - UNRWA Worker's Injury Protested *[Jerusalem TV]* ... 44
- Sources Deny UNIFIL Soldier Hit by IDF, SLA *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 45
- Two Arabs Wounded in Qalandiyah; Shots Fired at Base *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 45
- Government To Claim Irangate-Related Acts Legal *[HA'ARETZ 16 Jan]* ... 45
- Two Iraqi Citizens Infiltrate, Ask for Asylum *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 45
- Foreign Ministry Presents Work Plan for 1994 *[HA'ARETZ 17 Jan]* ... 45

JORDAN

- Syria's al-Shar' Visits Following Geneva Summit ... 47
  - Arrives With Message for King *[Amman TV]* ... 47
  - Briefs Prince Hasan *[Amman TV]* ... 47
  - Comments on Summit, Departs *[Damascus Radio]* ... 47
- Security Coordination Accord Signed With Palestinians *[JORDAN TIMES 19 Jan]* ... 47
- Group Protests 'Economic Normalization' With Israel *[JORDAN TIMES 19 Jan]* ... 48
- Al-Majali on King's U.S. Visit, Syrian Summit *[Amman Radio]* ... 49
- U.S. Commerce Secretary on Trade Relations, Debt *[Amman TV]* ... 49
- Senate President Meets U.S. Congressional Delegation *[Amman Radio]* ... 50
- UN Asked To Reexamine Policy on Export Permits to Iraq *[Amman Radio]* ... 50
- Al-Majali Addresses Deputies on Budget Draft Law *[Amman TV]* ... 51
  - House Approves 1994 Draft Budget *[Amman Radio]* ... 52
- Sentences Handed Down in Assassination Trial *[JORDAN TIMES 17 Jan]* ... 52
- Deputies Question Court's 'Neutrality and Honesty' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 14 Jan]* ... 53

LEBANON

- Israeli Planes Carry Out Raid Near Beirut *[VOM]* ... 54
- Amal-Israel Clashes Occur in Southern Areas ... 54
  - Israelis Shell, Rake Areas *[Beirut Radio]* ... 54
  - Amal Claims Killing of Israelis *[VOL]* ... 54
  - Amal Attacks Israeli, Militia Posts *[Beirut Radio]* ... 54
  - Amal Attacks; Israeli Shelling Continue *[VOM]* ... 54

Further on Continued Fighting *[Beirut Radio]* 54
SLA Positions Shelled *[RFL]* 54
UN Soldier Wounded in by Israelis *[Kafr Killa Radio]* 55
Amal Claims 2 Killed by Bomb *[VOM]* 55
Israeli Shelling Continues *[Beirut Radio]* 55
Israeli Gunboat Fires on Fishing Boats *[RFL]* 55
Birri on Beirut-Damascus Summit, Geneva Summit *[Beirut Radio]* 55
Al-Jumayyil: Summit Aims To Reactivate Negotiations *[London AL-HAYAH 18 Jan]* 55
'Awn Views Impact of Clinton-al-Asad Summit *[London AL-HAYAH 18 Jan]* 56
Minister Samahah on Council of Ministers Session *[VOL]* 56
Hizballah: U.S. Congressional Visit 'Insult' *[Tehran Radio]* 57
Government Leaders Leave for Summit in Damascus *[VOL]* 57

SYRIA

Alleged 'Secret' Syria-U.S. Accord Detailed *[AL-BILAD 19 Jan]* 58
Geneva Summit Marks 'Moment of Truth' for Israel *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 18 Jan]* 58
Geneva Summit Said 'Rare Opportunity' for Peace *[Damascus Radio]* 59
Israeli Summit Reaction, Referendum Talk Decried *[Damascus Radio]* 60
Al-Asad Receives Lebanese President, Others *[Damascus Radio]* 61

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Rabbani Agrees to Interim Government *[Islamabad Radio]* 62
Rabbani 'Willing To Negotiate' Cease-Fire *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 13 Jan]* 62
Military Commanders Seek End to Fighting *[Tehran Radio]* 62
Hekmatyar Rejects Proposal on Mediation Council *[Tehran Radio]* 63
Hekmatyar Accepts Bhutto as Talks Mediator *[THE FRONTIER POST 14 Jan]* 63
Iranian Envoy to Afghanistan Cited on Talks *[Tehran Radio]* 64
Factions Reject Pakistani Peace Initiative *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 15 Jan]* 65

Bangladesh

Dhaka Denies Indian Reports of ISI Activities *[Dhaka Radio]* 65

India

Pakistani Call for Kashmir Plebiscite Viewed *[Delhi Radio]* 65
U.S.-Pakistani Military Exercises Cause Concern *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 8 Jan]* 65
Officials 'Surprised' Not 'Disturbed' *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 9 Jan]* 66
ISI Blamed for Trouble in Northeastern States *[Delhi TV]* 67
Further on Protest to Dhaka *[INDIAN EXPRESS 13 Jan]* 67

Iran

Rafsanjani Receives Pakistani Army Chief *[Islamabad Radio]* 68
Velayati Returns From ICO Geneva Session *[Tehran Radio]* 68
Velayati Urges More Help for Azeri Refugees *[IRNA]* 68
Turkmen Foreign Minister: Niyazov's Visit 'Fruitful' *[IRNA]* 69
Majles Approves Bill on Accords With Turkmenistan *[Tehran TV]* 69
Afghan Foreign Minister on Need For Cease-Fire *[IRNA]* 69
Va'ezi: National Security, Regional Stability Linked *[IRNA]* 69
Amphibious Maneuvers Continue in Persian Gulf *[IRNA]* 69
PRC Envoy, Cooperatives Minister View Cooperation *[IRNA]* 69
Paris Embassy Denies Sending Letter Bomb to Sweden *[IRNA]* 70
KEYHAN Criticizes Egypt's Overtures to Tehran 70
Egypt's Representative in Kerman *[5 Jan]* 70
Commentary on Diplomatic Activity *[6 Jan]* 70
Radio, TV Officials on New Efforts in Broadcasting *[Tehran Radio]* 71

Pakistan

Islamabad Proposes Talks Aimed at Plebiscite *[Islamabad TV]* 72
Spokesman Comments on Afghan Situation *[Islamabad Radio]* 72
Bhutto Reiterates 'Peaceful Nuclear Program' *[Islamabad TV]* 72
Campaign Against Narcotics Intensified *[Islamabad TV]* 73
    Antinarcotics Efforts Criticized *[THE NATION 17 Jan]* 73
Benazir, Nusrat Bhutto Agree to 'Cease-Fire' *[DAWN 17 Jan]* 74
    'Temporary Truce' Viewed *[THE NATION 18 Jan]* 75

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Message Read at Tehran Seminar

LD1701124194 Tehran IRNA in English 1029 GMT 17 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 17, IRNA—Iran's President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here today underlined the significance of the development of human resources in the Third World countries and said no economic development could be achieved in the absence of human development.

The president's remark was part of his message read at the inaugural session of the international seminar on development in Central Asia and the Caucasus. Foreign ministers and academy heads of the Central Asian and Caucasian countries as well as academicians from 17 countries are attending the seminar.

Unfortunately, the message read, the unsuitable economic situation in the world and financial and economic bottlenecks among the majority of the developing nations have hindered process of the development of human resources. President Rafsanjani deplored that the outbreak of civil wars between some of the newly-independent Central Asian republics, in addition to imposing heavy arms expenses, had created obstacles for the economy of certain regional counties.

"In the contemporary era when the so-called new world order is taking shape, there are still drastic and growing economic imbalance between the developed and the developing nations," the message said. Such a deep gap would not only have its adverse impacts on eonomic relations, it would also threaten international peace and tranquility, the president noted in his message. He expressed hope that the seminar could take effective steps in consolidation of diplomatic, economic and cultural ties among Central Asian and Caucasian countries and in further upgrading living standards of their nations.

Experts and statesmen from Azerbaijan, Armenia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Britain, U.S., Germany, Turkey, Pakistan, India, China, Lebanon, Cyprus, Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and U.N. Development Program (UNDP) are attending the 3-day seminar.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Delegate Denies PLO-Israeli Cooperation on Security

TA1801162894 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 16 Jan 94 pp 1, 18

[By 'Ala' al-Saftawi]

[Excerpt] Gaza—Muhammad Dahlan, head of the Security Committee in the talks with the Israelis, has denied a report published several days ago by HA'ARETZ concerning cooperation in the security sphere between Palestinian and Israeli security agencies.

Contacted by phone at the Taba Hilton Hotel, Dahlan said that he had not made any statement to nor was he interviewed by this Israeli paper and that what had been attributed to him was false and without foundation. [passage omitted]

'Atmosphere of Pessimism' Reported at Taba Talks

NC1801213494 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] An atmosphere of pessimism prevailed over the Palestinian-Israeli talks in Taba today. The two sides announced that no mentionable progress had been made during the meetings of the Security Committee, which held its third session this evening. The official spokesman for the Israeli delegation stated that an atmosphere of inflexibility from both sides prevailed over the meetings.

Sha'th: Atmosphere 'More Positive'

NC1801225694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2210 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] Taba, 18 Jan (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser and head of the Palestinian side to the Gaza-Jericho Committee, has stated that the general atmosphere of today's talks was more positive than the round that concluded last week.

In statements he made today at the end of the first day of meetings of the Gaza-Jericho Committee's current round of talks, he added that we must wait until tomorrow to find out the extent of the progress that can be made in this round. He noted that no tangible progress was made today due to lack of time.

He said that the Israeli side still rejects the idea of raising the Palestinian flag over the crossings because it is a symbol of the Palestinian state. However, he adds, we call on the Israelis to adopt a new mode of thinking that befits the peace atmosphere. At this stage, this flag is a symbol of the Palestinian identity and not a symbol of the state.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th clarified that there were some differences over the crossings into Gaza and Jericho, as well as over the border points from Egypt, Gaza, Jordan, and the Jericho area, and defining the method of control over these crossings. He noted the importance of cooperation and coordination regarding the control over the crossings between the two sides.

He said the Palestinian side did not present any new proposals on the subject of the crossings. But the Palestinian paper that was presented during the previous round and the Israeli paper submitted today constitute the two stances that need to be agreed on.

He added that the Palestinian side accepts the Israeli electronic supervision of the crossings because it preserves the dignity of people and is secure at the same time. It also prevents weapons from being smuggled across the crossings, as well as catching people who carry out acts of aggression.

Dr. Sha'th said that some progress was made in Civil Affairs Committee's activities, which specializes in the transfer of authority, services, and facilities from the Israeli side to the Palestinian side. He noted that some progress could be made in issuing the personal identity cards and residence permits, the historic sites, and various other subjects. He affirmed that he expects the Civil Affairs Committee to end its work next week through written texts.

He affirmed that the Palestinian-Jordanian economic and security agreement, which was recently signed, has improved and bolstered the atmosphere of the Gaza-Jericho Committee negotiations.

He added that the political determination to find an agreement is what determines how long the Gaza-Jericho negotiations will continue. He noted that in the case where this determination is available, three weeks is enough to reach an agreement between the two sides. Otherwise, the negotiations will take much longer.

Security, Civilian Committees Resume Talks

NC1901103094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0915 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Taba, 19 Jan (MENA)—The Security and Civilian Committees stemming from the Gaza-Jericho Committee resumed their meetings in Taba this morning.

The Security Committee is led on the Palestinian side by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and on the Israeli side by General Amnon Shahaq, Israeli deputy chief of staff. The Civilian Committee is chaired by Attorney Jamil al-Turayfi for the Palestinian side, while the Israeli side is chaired by Gadi Zohar, in charge of the civilian administration in the West Bank.

Israel-Jordan-Egypt System To Monitor Oil Spills

TA1901081294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Israel, Jordan, and Egypt will establish a joint system of installations, equipment, and early-warning units in the northern part of the Gulf of Elat to deal with possible oil spills in the sea. The early-warning units will be placed in three locations—Elat, 'al-'Aqabah, and al-Nuwaybi'—and will be built with EC financing. The decision to set up the joint system was made at a meeting held in al-Nuwaybi' in the Sinai by the multinational committee on environment affairs within the framework of the peace talks. The systems will be built within one to one and a half years (Christian Falkovsky), the EC representative who presided over the meetings, told our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling that he hopes Saudi Arabia will join the efforts to save the environment at a later stage. Our correspondent points out that it is estimated that the European financing of the system will total $10 to $15 million.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief Comments on Syrian-U.S. Summit

NC1601111594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 16 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Alexandria, 16 Jan (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has praised Egypt's leading contribution to a peaceful settlement in the Middle East and to Arab reconciliation and solidarity.

Speaking to reporters in Alexandria last night, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid affirmed that pan-Arabism has not and will not suffer from a setback as a result of ethnic or regional fanaticism. Arabs will continue to be Arabs from the ocean to the Gulf; they will not experience what other ethnic groups, such as those in former Yugoslavia and Mexico, suffered lately, he said.

'Abd-al-Majid described today's meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton as a very important event. He expects that meeting to help reach a peaceful settlement and resolve problems between Israel and both Syria and Lebanon. He affirmed Arab League support for Syria and Lebanon and underlined the need for Israel to withdraw from the Golan and south Lebanon.

Touching on Egyptian-Sudanese relations, the secretary general stressed the need to resolve the two countries' border dispute through dialogue. He said that Egypt is eager to have good relations with Sudan and to preserve Sudan's unity and avoid the separation of the south from the north. He remarked that the problem in southern Sudan requires solution to be reached through dialogue, while keeping foreign hands off the region.

Commenting on the Lockerbie issue, 'Abd-al-Majid remarked that the legal aspects of the case are in Libya's favor, because it is not obliged to hand over its citizens for trial in another state with which it has no extradition agreement. Unfortunately, he said, the political aspect of the case is dominated by the UN Security Council's escalatory measures. The risk lies in a possible oil ban against Libya, he remarked. [passage omitted]

Discusses Israeli Boycott, Arab Unity

NC1601123094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 16 Jan 94

[Text] Alexandria, 16 Jan (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has affirmed that the new stage in the new world order demands restoring Arab solidarity, restoring confidence in Arab relations, and achieving economic integration in order to seriously and objectively deal with the changes that are taking place in international political and economic relations.

Speaking at a meeting with members of the Businessmen's Association in Alexandria last night, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the Arab nation possess economic, human, and cultural resources that would enable it to carry out an effective role in the new world order. As a regional organization, the Arab League can play an effective role in most major issues facing the Arab world.

He added that the Arab League dealt objectively with the Gulf crisis in 1990. It views the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles as an important turning point in the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Arab League also welcomes the efforts to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and supports the Arab states participating in the peace process.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that the Arab position on a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict is based on the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions in this regard and emphasizes the principle of land for peace, the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to return, and on the Arabism of Jerusalem.

He added that there is a need for progress on the Israeli-Syrian, Israeli-Jordanian, and Israeli-Lebanese tracks in order to establish confidence and advance the peace process. Israel must realize that it will be the primary beneficiary from peace and stability in the Middle East.

Regarding the Middle East economic market, the Arab League secretary general affirmed that the establishment of such a market does not frighten the Arabs, because peace with Israel does not mean it will have any economic advantage over the Arabs. Israel will be dealt with according to criteria and controls established by each state according to its national interest. Each Arab state enjoys full sovereignty and will not be forced to deal with Israel.

He said that any Middle East arrangement to which Israel is a party must not be at the expense of Arab relations. Regional cooperation in the Middle East will not necessarily be confined to the Arab states and Israel, but might extend to other states in the region, such as Iran, Turkey, and Cyprus. Therefore, the Middle Eastern market will be a free trade area involving reduced customs barriers, with each state maintaining its own customs policy.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the Arab boycott of Israel was imposed for certain reasons, and when these reasons cease to exist, the Arab states can consider ending the boycott.

Referring to the GATT agreement and its effects on the Arab states, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid affirmed the need for the Arabs to deal with this issue with full understanding and awareness. The Arabs must also achieve economic integration so as to protect Arab national security. He called for Arab reconciliation as a prerequisite for restoring Arab solidarity and achieving the aspirations and ambitions of the Arab nation.

He said that the restoration of Arab solidarity is accomplished by respecting the Arab states' independence, territorial integrity, and sovereignty over their resources, and by noninterference in their internal affairs. It will also be necessary to close the file of the Gulf crisis and begin establishing an Arab security structure to achieve stability and national security by intrinsic means. There must be guarantees that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait will not be repeated. The Arab League must be provided with the necessary means to resolve Arab conflicts by peaceful means. He said that this requires that serious consideration be given to amending the Arab League Charter by adding annexes to it and establishing an Arab court of justice.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid also spoke about the Arab League's role in solving the Libyan-Western crisis, the problem of Iran's occupation of three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, solving the Somali problem, and efforts to end the problem of Kuwaiti prisoners and missing in Iraq and solve the problems facing the Iraqi people as a result of the sanctions imposed on them.

Arab League Official: 12th Round Talks 'Final Test'

NC1701161694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Jan 94

[Text] Ambassador 'Adnan 'Imran, assistant secretary general of the Arab League for political affairs, has emphasized that the Syrian-U.S. summit in Geneva has achieved a positive shift in the Arabs' favor that must be consolidated in the next round of talks in Washington.

He said that the 12th round [of Arab-Israeli talks] will be a final test of Israel's commitment to peace and of the United States' ability to carry out its responsibilities and commitments. This, he added, is directly linked not only to security and stability in the Middle East but to the United States' future relations with the countries in the region.

In statements made today on the outcome of the al-Asad-Clinton summit, he said that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad was able to rearrange the Arab-Israeli conflict and link all the tracks in an attempt to achieve a comprehensive solution, which U.S. President Clinton affirmed at the end of the summit.

Peace, as viewed by the Syrian president, involves not only the Syrian track but the Lebanese and Jordanian tracks and the legitimate Palestinian rights. Thus, we can say that the issue has regained its balance and comprehensiveness.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Meeting on Bosnia-Herzegovina Concludes

Iran's Velayati Meets Bosnian President

NC1801080394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] The Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] Liaison Group session on Bosnia-Herzegovina concluded in Geneva with an 18-point statement. In it, the foreign ministers in the group expressed their opposition to the occupation of the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina by means of force, aggression, ethnic cleansing, and genocide and called for the return of refugees, homeless, and POW's to their homes.

In the statement, the ministers reiterated the willingness of some ICO member countries to provide peacekeeping forces under the aegis of the United Nations. Our colleague in Paris has sent us a report on the statement and the meetings of Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] In the statement, the Islamic countries again stressed their categorical and urgent call to the United Nations to lift the arms embargo against the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina and to terminate the siege of Sarajevo.

Dr. Velayati, who is in Geneva to participate in the session, met Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic on Monday [17 January] night. Izetbegovic described the peace proposals presented to the Muslims as unjust and criticized the international community's lack of support for ensuring the Bosnian Muslims' interests in these talks. He stated: The Serbs are perpetrating atrocities but are in a far better position than us.

Dr. Velayati stressed that for most Western countries, the term peace has lost its meaning as noble and just and he appraised Izetbegovic of his talks with the UN secretary general. At the conclusion of the Liaison Group session, Dr. Velayati met Butrus-Ghali and again stressed that Iran is willing to dispatch 5,000-10,000 peacekeeping troops to Bosnia-Herzegovina. He accused the Security Council of inattention toward the genocide of Bosnian Muslims and a lack of definite action against the Serbs. [end recording]

ICO Chief on Air Strikes, Troops in Bosnia

LD1801150994 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 0700 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Excerpt] The three Bosnian factions and the international mediators will meet in Geneva again today in order once more to discuss the peace plan which splits Bosnia into three territorial entities. Today, the foreign ministers of eight Muslim countries will be in Geneva to lend their support to the Bosnian Muslims. Yesterday, they were received by the UN Secretary General. The secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [Hamid al-Ghabid] spoke to our reporter Luc Lemmonier:

[Begin al-Ghabid recording] It was a very positive, very encouraging meeting. Our contribution was designed to bring about progress in the negotiations. The secretary general, as you know, has great responsibilities regarding the recourse to NATO air strikes. We have asked the secretary general to stand by his responsibilities. Of course, he is ready to do so provided he is not blocked by certain countries.

The Islamic Conference is willing to cooperate with the international community in the search for a just solution to this conflict; it is prepared to contribute politically, morally, and financially— and militarily—to this end. The Islamic countries have long been proposing the use of troops. We would wish to see the obstacles to this removed. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Statement Issued on Bosnia-Herzegovina

LD1801151894 Riyadh SPA in English 1225 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] Geneva, Jan 18, SPA—Foreign ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Conference have called for a just settlement of the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Members of a ministerial contact committee, who concluded a meeting in Geneva yesterday issued a statement on behalf of the OIC, expressing their deep anxiety over the failure of the Security Council in shouldering its responsibilities toward the Bosnian problem and the council's failure to implement its resolutions in this connection.

The ministers from Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Tunisia, Pakistan, Senegal and Iran have expressed the OIC states' readiness to take part in the peace talks between the conflicting parties in Bosnia-Herzegovina. They also regretted the diplomatic and military pressures being practiced against the Bosnian Government in order to accept the disintegration of the independent state of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The statement said the Islamic countries rejected the description of the conflict as "a civil war."

The ministers urged the world community and the chairman of the international conference on the former Yugoslavia to implement the U.N. resolutions and the principles of the international law. They paid tributes to the Bosnian Government for its flexibility and constructive stands during the peace talks.

The statement expressed OIC's deep sorrow over the continuation of aggression against the Bosnian people despite the current peace negotiations. It urged all conflicting parties in Bosnia- Herzegovina to implement the ceasefire and halt all offenses in order to create a conducive atmosphere for peace.

"The success of the peace process requires respect for the independence and sovereignty of Bosnia and the return of the land usurped by the Serbs with the use of force against Bosnia-Herzegovina."

The statement reiterated OIC's readiness to provide peace-keeping forces under the patronage of the U.N. and called on the NATO to carry out air strikes against Serb positions in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

It also expressed the Islamic states' grave concern over the volatile situation in Croatia.

The statement said the OIC calls upon the International Court of Justice to begin its work on the situation in Bosnia and to put before justice the war criminals. It appealed for maintaining the current boycott against Serbia and Montenegro until a final settlement is achieved.

PLO's 'Abd-Rabbuh Arrives for ICO Follow-Up Meeting

NC1801215894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2115 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA)—Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, arrived in Cairo this evening to attend the meetings of the ministerial follow-up committee formed by the second Islamic conference of the Islamic Conference Organization countries' information ministers. The committee is chaired by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif and will begin its meetings in Cairo tomorrow, Wednesday.

'Abd-Rabbuh stated that the meeting will follow up on the objectives that were set during previous meetings and will work to bolster cooperation between the Islamic countries to serve their joint causes.

He said that convening the meetings in Cairo has a special significance since that city is currently the venue for meetings and conferences that have influence on various levels and in many fields. He noted that Cairo is the heart of every media and political activity.

He affirmed the interest of the Palestinian side to always coordinate with Egypt on all levels to achieve the necessary progress in the peace process.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Leadership To Meet on Outcome of Geneva Summit

JN1801143994 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Jan 94 p 25

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Excerpt] The PLO Executive Committee will hold an emergency meeting in Tunis on Thursday [20 January] to discuss the results of the Syrian-U.S. summit, Palestinian participation in the Washington talks, and the deteriorating situation in the occupied territories.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Amr said that this meeting has been proposed by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department.

'Amr indicated that in a telephone conversation with him from Tunis, Faruq Qaddumi stressed the importance of this meeting under the current circumstances experienced by the Palestine question and in light of the Israeli intransigence on the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

'Amr stressed the importance of Palestinian-Jordanian-Syrian-Lebanese coordination before going to the 11th [as published] round of negotiations in Washington on Monday.

The PLO Executive Committee member praised the results of the Syrian-U.S. Geneva summit. He denied that these results have terrified the Palestinian side.

'Amr said: On the contrary, these results will help the Palestinians and support their arguments before the Israeli negotiator. He indicated that the concepts that President al-Asad raised will obviously and directly help the Palestinian track. He said that these concepts must be followed during the interim and the final phases.

'Amr added that this summit has set a formula for resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East and specified the concept of a durable peace, a peace that satisfies the parties concerned and that is based on the resolutions of the international legitimacy and the principle of trading territory for peace.

'Amr described President al-Asad as a man of broad vision with a brave pan-Arab position, a man who is aware of the future and of the current changes. He noted that President al-Asad is a man of a profound experience, and that he has placed Israel before a difficult option if it wants to be part of the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Ross Told U.S. Should Play 'More Effective Role'

LD1901111494 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] Yesterday evening, a number of Palestinian political figures held a two-hour meeting with the U.S. peace team headed by Mr. Dennis Ross in Bayt al-Sharq in occupied East Jerusalem.

During the meeting the American side briefed the Palestinian side on the results of the meeting of U.S. President Bill Clinton with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad the day before yesterday in Geneva.

After the meeting Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi said that the Palestinian side stressed to the American side that any progress along the Syrian or other tracks tends to create progress in the remaining tracks. She added that the Palestinian leadership is committed to a comprehensive solution, and there must be Arab coordination and a complementary stance on this process along all the tracks.

The Palestinian side told the U.S. peace team that the United States should play a more effective role in the negotiations.

Dr. Sa'ib Urayqat who was present at the meeting said that long discussions took place about the negotiations in Taba and the problems which stand in their way as a result of the intransigent Israeli attitude on its method of explaining its concepts and its understanding of the American role in the peace process.

Dr. Urayqat said: We have explained the suffering of the people of the occupied territories as a result of Israeli practices, also the absorption operations and the seizure of land. We stressed to the American envoy that the continuation of Israeli practices over the land has made the peace process lose its credibility.

On the Palestinian side, the meeting was attended by Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, Dr. Sa'ib Urayqat, Dr. Nabil Qassis, Dr. Kamil al-'Isawi, the lawyer Ziyad Abu-Ziyad, and sister Ahlam 'Abbasi.

Syrian Shift on Israel Calls Old Alliances Into Question

PM1801164094 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 18 Jan 94 p 11

[Editorial: "New Syrian Role"]

[Text] The agreements and understandings reached at the Geneva summit between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton will lay the foundation for a new and different role for Damascus in the Arab region as a whole. They will also lay the foundations for a new U.S.-Syrian relationship as important as Egyptian-U.S. relations, if not more important.

President al-Asad has never opposed a settlement, otherwise he would not have gone to Madrid under a formula much smaller than the international conference formula proposed by the late Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev. But he wanted something much more than a settlement. He wanted a stronger relationship with Washington, which is now the sole superpower in the world. He aspires to a new regional role through this relationship—which explains his agreement to participate in the bilateral negotiations arising from the Madrid formula, and his refusal to participate in multilateral regional negotiations.

What is certain is that President al-Asad must have encountered satisfactory answers from the U.S. President to many of his demands in this connection for him to agree to full normalization with Israel, which means open borders and a diplomatic and trade exchange in return for an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and the presence of U.S. observation forces there.

The Geneva meeting—which lasted five hours, of which 90 minutes were devoted to a closed meeting between the two leaders without the accompanying delegations—was the culmination of the previous agreements reached during U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tours of the region, the most recent of which was last month. It is unreasonable to accept the theory that the understanding was reached in Geneva. Because there was insufficient time to discuss details of complex regional and local issues. The time was sufficient to bless the new agreements and scenarios reached and to tackle what could have been points of disagreements in previous talks.

It is wrong to rush to make definite judgments based on a quick reading of some press statements made after the historic meeting, or to interpret some phrases in different ways. Patience helps here to determine the truth. The coming days will reveal many details, whether during the bilateral negotiations and through the positions of the parties participating in them, or through the Syrian Government's positions on numerous matters, especially the opposition to the Gaza-Jericho agreement and ways of dealing with the PLO and the factions opposed to it.

Theoretically, after the Geneva meeting all disagreements between the PLO leadership and the Syrian Government should disappear. This is because everyone is now rallying under the banner of the U.S. settlement and has agreed to normalize with Israel and to deal with its government as an original party in the region, and no opposition to this new Palestinian-Syrian orientation has any place in Damascus, at least in the foreseeable future.

If this theoretical assumption is correct, the "veto" expressed by the Syrian Government against coordination with the PLO should be lifted after the Geneva meeting, and contacts should resume between the two sides at the highest levels in order to benefit from the new agreements so as to reactivate the peace process on all fronts, especially on the Palestinian-Israeli track, which experienced obstacles and deliberate delays in the run-up to the Geneva summit.

Damascus—which led the Arabs to the war, disagreed with those whom it thought were for a settlement, and allied itself with anyone who opposed it—finds itself today in a new position at the head of the camp of peace and normalization with Israel—which will give rise to numerous questions about its old alliances, especially with Iran, and its old hostilities toward Iraq. Will we see Iraqi-Iranian rapprochement against the new Syrian role, or Iraqi-Syrian rapprochement against the clear Iranian hostility toward peace and normalization with Israel?!

The coming days will be full of surprises, and perhaps full of the political contradictions for which the region is known.

Geneva Summit Seen Promoting Progress on All Tracks

TA1801181794 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 18 Jan 94 p 11

[Editorial: "Movement on All Tracks Is Required"]

[Text] Some time will pass before practical reaction to the Syrian-U.S. summit can materialize into reality. This is because a great deal of that reaction and the outcome depend on the Israeli positions regarding withdrawal from the Golan and achievement of results on the other Arab negotiating tracks, particularly the Palestinian and Lebanese tracks.

The Geneva summit put the ball in the Israeli court after Syria proved to the U.S. sponsor its complete readiness to bear the consequences of total peace, including the establishment of normal relations with Israel. Israeli officials, however, still prefer to ignore this reality and to insist on the Syrian side's pronouncement of the word "normalization," as if there is a difference between normalizing relations and establishment of normal relations.

Certainly, Syria is still committed—just as the other Arab negotiating parties—to the comprehensiveness and justness of a peaceful solution and, consequently, to the Arab link in general, especially the Syrian, with the Palestinian cause. Realization of the Palestinian people's legitimate aspirations will remain a constant factor despite the momentary differences in viewpoints between the Arab brothers. The supreme Arab interest is above any other consideration, especially as all the Arab parties have chosen the strategy of peace and a negotiated settlement. Hence, amid the political ambiguity prevailing in the region now, one fact seems certain: None of the Arab parties will sign a final and separate peace agreement with Israel, rather all of them are striving for a comprehensive peace in the interest of the region's peoples and their future generations.

In this context, any agreement or settlement with any Arab party will not be complete unless it coincides with integrated settlements with the other parties. Hence, the Palestinian side's approach and conviction is that any concrete negotiating achievement realized on any negotiating track is, in the larger sense, in the Arab interest. If the Syrian-U.S. summit has managed to put the foundation for Israeli withdrawal and evacuation from the Golan Heights—this if we assume that Israel will respond to this just Arab demand, refrains from placing obstacles to it, and does not pursue the known method of procrastination—the signing of a comprehensive peace agreement will still depend on the realization of withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, south Lebanon, and the 'Arava Valley within framework of an integrated Arab solution comprising the Arab parties interested in peace, without exception.

We are now awaiting the practical Israeli reaction to the Geneva summit after Syria announced its readiness to bear the burden of peace as of this moment. That response must not be confined to the Syrian track alone but, in conformity with the comprehensive concept of peace, should extend to include the other negotiating tracks, foremost of all the stalled negotiations for more than two months with the Palestinian side. Those negotiations were supposed to end positively several weeks ago.

'Arafat Accuses Israel of Not Keeping to Accords

AU1801130594 Salzburg SALZBURGER NACHRICHTEN in German 18 Jan 94 p 3

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Werner A. Beninger in Tunis on 16 January: "I Wish Kreisky Were Still Alive"]

[Text] [Beninger] What is the present state of the negotiations with Israel, above all on the following main topics:

—The dimension of the Jericho area, which Israel only defines as the town of Jericho covering 27 square kilometers, whereas the PLO defines it as the old Jordanian administrative district covering more than 350 square kilometers;

—The issue of control of the borders between Gaza and Egypt, and Jericho and Jordan;

—The problem of the Jewish settlers and their security?

['Arafat] Regrettably, I must say that the Israelis are still not negotiating honestly and are not really ready to keep to the accords of the Gaza-Jericho agreement. The crucial date is 13 April (according to the agreement of 13 September 1993, the Israeli soldiers must have left the autonomy areas by that date—editorial board). This is where it all starts, the points of the agreement are not being observed. Israel continues to insist on having control of the border crossings. This means that the Israelis do not withdraw, but want to maintain the present status. They insist on making Gaza a Palestinian ghetto.

The same holds true for Jericho. Who could accept their intention to stay? Who would be ready to invest money in an Israeli annex or a ghetto? Who would be ready to do so? These are the maneuvers that the Israelis are now trying to carry out.

[Beninger] What specifically does this mean for the continuation of the negotiations, for the peace process in the Middle East?

['Arafat] Take the Jericho area as an example, against the background of what we discussed. The province of Jericho is 712 square kilometers large—according to a definition of the Israeli administration. Then they offered us 27 square kilometers, which they increased to 50 square kilometers in their latest proposal. What is this supposed to be? A ghetto, a new enclave? The Israelis speak about so very small areas, even though under the agreement signed, they must pull out of all these areas within four months. What does it mean? It means that it is their intention not to pull out.

[Beninger] In view of these facts, is it realistic at all to believe that the time schedule under which the Israeli withdrawal is to be completed by 13 April can be met at all? One is already in default now.

['Arafat] Rabin has said repeatedly that not even 13 April is a fixed date. What does that mean?

[Beninger] But if the time schedule cannot be fulfilled, do you see any possibility at all of keeping under control the disappointment and bitterness of the people who live in the occupied territories?

['Arafat] That depends on those who signed the agreement together with us. We will then also have to see how the international community will react. After all, this agreement was not only signed by the Israelis. In the final analysis, it is an international agreement. Then it will depend on how the Europeans, how Clinton and the Americans react.

[Beninger] Does the PLO have specific options to stop violence in the occupied territories?

['Arafat] This is not the only issue. There is also continuing oppression and the provocation of violence. Why are they continuing to confiscate new land and to build new settlements, specifically near Jerusalem? The isolation of Jerusalem is being increased. Then there is the additional scandal that happened only last Christmas when they granted Christians special status in the holy places.

[Beninger] Accordingly, the Gaza-Jericho agreement so far has changed nothing at all for the people in the occupied territories. It is true that the refugees who left Palestine after 1967 have been guaranteed the right to return, but in fact, they are not admitted into the country. No more than 650 of more than 10,000 Palestinians in Israeli prisons have been released, and the oppressive measures of the occupation authorities has not declined, as you said.

['Arafat] What we agreed upon must finally be respected. This means that the most important points now are the withdrawal and independence. At the beginning of the third year—not in the course of, but at the beginning!—we must discuss the other problems.

[Beninger] But is it not true that fewer Palestinians have been released than expected?

['Arafat] Not only that. The oppressive measures against our women and our people are continuing to escalate. The continuation of these activities certainly shows what game the Israelis are continuing to play.

[Beninger] But there are also efforts to split the Palestinian people. For instance, following secret talks with the radical Hamas people, to which Rabin had sent him, General Doran reported recently that Hamas would prefer Israeli occupation to autonomy—for fear of a regime by 'Arafat and his people.

['Arafat] That is a wrong story that the Israelis keep repeating. They are trying to play us off against one another. We are sure, however, that our unity is strong, much too strong to be jeopardized by such efforts.

[Beninger] Nonetheless, how about your relations with Hamas? Do you believe their assertions that they want to prevent civil war?

['Arafat] Why civil war? Who is talking about civil war? This is something the Israelis talk about. Their military officers sell weapons, guns, because they hope the Palestinians could then start waging war against one another, they hope they will be split. The Israelis must withdraw. Please tell every Israeli, every Israeli official, that I am sure that such actions will not influence our free men, our free people in any way. They will have no influence on a democracy and a society in which human rights are respected.

You should remember, for instance, that many Palestinian organizations were represented in Beirut that had all types of weapons—guns, rifles, and even tanks. Nothing happened among them. Rather there was unity and stability among the Palestinians. We are certain that the Palestinians will demonstrate responsibility. Granted, there will be opposition, but this is part of our democracy.

[Beninger] Against this background, how about your relations with Syria? Will you meet with President al-Asad in the next few weeks?

['Arafat] If there is an opportunity, why not? But we should not forget that there was a meeting in Damascus recently between Syria, Egypt, and other states, and these states expressly support the declaration that we signed with Israel.

[Beninger] You will need huge sums to reconstruct Gaza and Jericho....

['Arafat] ... and the West Bank.

[Beninger] How about the financial situation of the PLO?

['Arafat] You know that several countries promised us help. We have pledges from the World Bank and the EC. We have a number of bilateral pledges, and U.S. President Clinton promised us $2.2 billion at short notice.

[Beninger] There has been vehement criticism from your own ranks in recent weeks about yourself and your leadership style.

['Arafat] Are you against democracy? Isn't this so in Austria, too? Why do you speak about democracy in your country, whereas in the case of the Palestinians, you do not consider criticism a sign of democracy? If there is no opposition, something is wrong.

[Beninger] Do you have concrete plans to bind the people who are opposed to you into the work?

['Arafat] Of course, they will also help reconstruct their country.

[Beninger] Some Palestinian experts and even the World Bank and the European Community have criticized the fact that you brought PEDRA (Palestine Economic Development and Reconstruction Authority, which is to take over management of the entire aid funds—editorial board) under your personal control, and the two vice presidents of PEDRA (Faruq Qaddumi and Mohammed Zahdi—editorial board), who are politicians and no economic experts ....

['Arafat] Who says that? These are rumors.

[Beninger] So there was criticism?

['Arafat] Some, but no official criticism, just one of those obstructive maneuvers and rumors. We are talking about facts. A counter example is the way the World Bank is dealing with our economic facilities. The same holds true for Europe, the European Community.

[Beninger] How do you assess Austria's role in the Middle East process? During the Bruno Kreisky era, Austria played a decisive role in the region. This is not nearly the case any more to the former extent.

['Arafat] We should not forget what they are doing now. What the Austrians are doing is very important. They are doing their best.

[Beninger] Does this also include their material aid, which, compared with comparable countries, appears to be a bit small, doesn't it?

['Arafat] We are satisfied with what the kindly people in Austria are doing for us. But we should never forget what a significant role my friend, Bruno Kreisky, played for us. I wish he could be here. I wish he were still alive.

'Abd-al-Shafi Says Pact 'Can Be Dealt With'

JN1801095494 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0730 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] Manama, 18 Jan (WAKH)—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating team, has said that the Gaza-Jericho agreement is an accomplished fact because the Palestinian leadership [words indistinct] signed it and because the world adopted it as a basis for the achievement of peace in the region. However, in a statement to the Bahraini paper AL-AYYAM today, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi noted that this agreement places the Palestinian side [words indistinct] in a difficult position because it does not address the issue of the continued Israeli settlement activity in the occupied territories. Rather, he said, the agreement gives Israel more reasons to justify its denial of the Palestinian rights to self-determination, independent statehood, and repatriation.

He said that he believes that this agreement can be dealt with while maintaining inalienable Palestinian rights. He noted that this can be achieved through effecting a national unity among the various political factions on a democratic basis.

Talking about the situation inside the Palestinian home, the Palestinian negotiator expressed satisfaction with what is going on between Palestinian officials and the Palestinian opposition.

He said that the next phase requires the PLO apparatus, which was established on the basis of an armed struggle, to make unusual preparations. Now it must adapt itself for the next phase.

'Abd-al-Shafi Warns on Israeli Settlement Expansion

LD1801173994 Stockholm Radio Sweden in Swedish 1130 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] The talks between the PLO and Israel on Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho will be resumed today. The talks are progressing sluggishly and Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, former chairman of the Palestinian delegation to the talks, now warns, during a visit to Stockholm, of the continued expansion of Jewish settlements in occupied territories. It is the biggest threat to the peace process in the Middle East, he thinks. Aake Wiklund of The Echo program met him:

[Wiklund] Israel does not admit that any new Jewish settlements are being built in occupied territories, but Dr. Haydar says that he has reliable information, and this is totally in breach of the meaning of the peace work and how you view the final step toward Palestinian self-rule. In comparison with the Israeli settlement policy, all other issues are irrelevant, Dr. Haydar says.

[Begin Haydar recording, in English] In my opinion, it is the settlement process. I think it is much more important than all the other issues. I don't think, I think the—what they have been arguing about, the question of control of the crossings, the size of Jericho, all this—in my opinion it is irrelevant. [end recording]

[Wiklund] Dr Haydar was one of the Palestinians whom Yasir 'Arafat picked from obscurity in Gaza and the West Bank to negotiate with Israel on behalf of the PLO. However, after Israel elected to speak directly to 'Arafat, the Palestinian voices have disappeared from the negotiation scene. The PLO headquarters in Tunis has been in the limelight.

A couple of weeks ago, heading a Palestinian delegation, Dr. Haydar travelled to Tunis and demanded a larger measure of democracy within the PLO. They received no promise of change. But we in the occupied areas will continue to demand a democratic order and we refuse to sacrifice competence to political and personal considerations, he said. That is a diplomatic way of expressing one's dissatisfaction with Arafat's autocratic leadership and the group around him in Tunis.

Many representatives of the PLO now view with mixed feelings the recent summit in Geneva between President Clinton and Syrian President al-Asad, where a settlement between Syria and Israel seems to have moved closer. They fear that the negotiations about Palestinian rule will now be pushed into the background. But Dr. Haydar trusts the Syrian president.

[Begin Haydar recording] [words indistinct] President al-Asad did not neglect the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and talking about the comprehensiveness of the issue of peace. [end recording]

[Wiklund] I do not think that al-Asad will neglect our negotiations with Israel, he says, noting that the Syrian president stressed the importance of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East and emphasized that the peace process is indivisible. That satisfies us, says this old hand in negotiations.

British Police To Help Train Palestinian Force

PM1901115294 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 19 Jan p 13

[Michael Smith report: "British to Train PLO Police]

[Text] A British Chief Constable is to help train the Palestinian police force in the proposed Gaza-Jericho autonomous zone to be set up under a peace agreement between Israel and the PLO.

Mr. Dan Crompton, Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire said yesterday the PLO had asked the Foreign Office to help set up a British-style community police force.

The agreement envisages the withdrawal of Israeli forces, leaving a Palestinian police force in its place.

Mr. Crompton, with three or four other officers, will train senior officers within that force. He will visit the occupied territories next month with another officer from his force, Acting Chief Supt [superintendent] John Tunney, to meet potential candidates and assess training needs.

It is also possible he will visit PLO headquarters in Tunis for further consultations before setting up a course in March.

"The Palestinians have asked us for advice on structuring and training," Mr. Crompton said.

"They don't want a paramilitary style force. What they want is a move to the community style policing you see in the UK.

"They are anxious to show a quantum leap if you like between the sort of occupying force we have seen there up to now and a British-style force. But it is likely to be a rocky road.

"There is no common law in existence in the occupied territories."

A Foreign Office spokesman said Britain would also be providing equipment for the Palestinian police force as well as helping to train nurses, build schools and give advice in the management of water resources.

The Palestinians had also asked for help in setting up a radio station, particularly in the training of journalists, a role expected to be undertaken by the BBC and the Thompson Foundation.

50 Police Officers Cross Into Strip From Egypt

NC1801121794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1148 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] Rafah, 18 Jan (MENA)—50 Palestinian officers with the rank of first lieutenant, who graduated from the Police Academy in Cairo after a four-month intensive training course, crossed into the Gaza Strip today.

Major Muhammad Bahr, a liaison officer with the Palestinian Police, said the group includes 45 lawyers, three doctors, and two engineers. They joined the Palestinian Police to provide public security, protect property, and prevent crime.

These officers will await instructions to spread out and operate in the Gaza Strip following the Israeli withdrawal.

Fatah Official: Israel Planning Civil War in West Bank

JN1601122194 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Jan 94 pp 1, 24

[Report by Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Excerpt] A ranking Palestinian official has warned against the flow of weapons into the West Bank and Gaza Strip, adding that the sources of these weapons are known. In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, 'Abbas Zaki, member of the Fatah Central Committee, said that Palestinian citizens purchase weapons under the slogan of self-defense, not under militant slogans. He said that the purchases are not carried out at central instructions, adding that this situation would create uncontrollable chaos.

'Abbas Zaki added: We discovered an Israeli plan to sow sedition among citizens in the occupied territory. He warned the fighters, particularly the Fatah Hawks, against carrying their weapons and shooting in the streets. He said: The Israeli enemy is encouraging such manifestations within the framework of its preparation for a civil war.

Zaki disclosed that the Israelis are propagating a particular type of weapon which is also a detector. This weapon, he added, transmits signals which will help the Israeli soldiers, who carry electronic devices, locate this weapon and arrest its carrier. He added that one of the Fatah cadres was arrested by this method although he was in a safe place. Meanwhile, he said, the Israeli Army was unable to arrest this cadre's colleague who lost his weapon in a fedayeen operation. 'Abbas Zaki said: The Israeli Army can collect these weapons if they are used against it anytime it wants. [passage omitted]

Fatah, PPP 'About To Agree' on 'Program of Action'

JN1501100694 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 15 Jan 94 p 28

[Text] Bethlehem—QUDS PRESS—Authorized Palestinian sources have informed QUDS PRESS that the Palestine National Liberation Movement, Fatah, and the Palestinian People's Party [PPP] (formerly the Palestinian Communist Party) are about to agree on a political program that will identify the bases of future Palestinian action, thus ending bilateral differences.

Hanna 'Amirah, a prominent PPP official in the occupied territories, said that intensive talks are currently under way between both sides under President Yasir 'Arafat and PPP Secretary General Bashir al-Barghuthi, who is currently in Tunis at the head of a large PPP delegation.

'Amirah described the talks as "positive and constructive," adding that they are being held in a "cordial and fraternal atmosphere." However, he has not set a date for signing this program.

In a statement to a QUDS PRESS correspondent, 'Amirah said that the bilateral talks are focusing on the delineation of a higher Palestinian authority, a comprehensive negotiating strategy, and the criteria to be heeded when the future Palestinian National Authority is formed. This authority, 'Amirah noted, must represent all colors of the Palestinian spectrum. The citizens of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, women, and clergymen must be involved in this authority. The composition of this authority must also heed the factor of territorial representation, as he put it.

'Amirah said that a detailed discussion of the formation of this authority has been postponed pending the signing of the program of action by both sides. He added: "Both sides must now reach such an agreement to settle all contentious political issues."

The Palestinian official ruled out the PPP's possible participation in the Palestinian committees negotiating with Israel at present, saying: "This is contingent upon the Palestinian leadership's compliance with the recent PLO Executive Committee decisions, which spelled out the bases of negotiations."

The PPP is considered Fatah's major partner in the negotiations with Israel. However, it has suspended its participation in the negotiations since the ninth round of the Washington talks due to substantive differences on the bases of the negotiating process.

The PPP, along with other Palestinian factions, is demanding democratic reforms in the Palestinian decisionmaking process. It is also demanding changes in the way the negotiations with Israel are being conducted. Palestinian reformists fear that these secret negotiations could be a mere attempt to fragment their ranks, particularly in the aftermath of their launching a follow-up committee to press ahead with their demands with the Palestinian leadership.

'Positive Results' Reached

PM1801102594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Jan 94 p2

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi report: "Two Fatah and People's Party Officials Confirm Rapprochement Between Their Two Organizations"]

[Text] Tunis—A senior official of the Palestinian People's Party [PPP] (formerly the Communist Party) has revealed that there are serious indications that the two-month-old crisis between the PPP and the PLO leadership is being resolved. In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, PPP Secretary General Bashir al-Barghuthi said that the numerous meetings held in Tunis last week with Fatah officials produced positive results, particularly including an agreement on formulating clear and common ground between his party and Fatah regarding developments related to the current negotiations with Israel for the implementation of the Declaration of Principles as well as current Palestinian conditions.

This development comes after months of estrangement and cool relations between the PPP and the Palestinian leadership resulting in the PPP's suspension of its participation in the last rounds of the Palestinian-Israeli peace negotiations in Washington and boycott of the work of the joint Palestinian-Israeli committees for the implementation of the Declaration of Principles in Egypt.

Al-Barghuthi said that the impasse reached in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations for the implementation of the Declaration of Principles was new evidence of the need for the Palestinian leadership to understand and respond to the demands made by the PPP. He emphasized that these were national, not partisan or factional demands, aimed mainly at strengthening Palestinian national unity through the introduction of clear and realistic concepts of what should be done in the current and next phases to ensure fulfillment of the Palestinian people's aspirations.

On the PPP's position on the current negotiations between the PLO and Israel on the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, al-Barghuthi said: There can be no doubt that the situation is difficult. It is clear that, under the pressure of internal opposition, the Israeli Government has retreated from previous positions. That makes it necessary for the Palestinian side to consolidate its unity and explain its position to Arab and international public opinion. It is also necessary for the Palestinian parties which support the Declaration of Principles to assess the situation.

The Palestinians, al-Barghuthi said, have no alternative now but to insist on their positions, strengthen their internal front, close their ranks, and continue their struggle.

Al-Barghuthi said that his party categorically rejected the recent Israeli proposals on the crossing points and the area of Jericho. He added that "these proposals are totally rejected and should not be accepted because they run contrary to the Declaration of Principles." He pointed out that the Jericho area under Ottoman, British, and Jordanian rules always reached the River Jordan.

On Fatah's side, Muhammad Ghunaym (Abu-Mahir), its official in charge of mobilization and organization, emphasized that the PPP, as a part of the existing PLO coalition, had expressed interest in bilateral relations with Fatah that would cover organization and coordination in the various fields of common interest. Fatah, he said, welcomes such a formula which should be open to all the Palestinian forces which support the political grounds on which the Declaration of Principles was based.

He added that that formula would be tantamount to an agreed framework for political and field cooperation in the occupied territory among all the organizations which share similar views on a political settlement based on the same foundation, namely the Declaration of Principles signed on 13 September.

Abu-Mahir emphasized that the purpose of that bilateral formula is to scrutinize daily activities and draw the necessary plans for the implementation of the Declaration of Principles on the ground to pave the way for a Palestinian state.

Fatah Wins Gaza Strip Trade Union Elections

TA1801122194 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Jan 94 p 4

[Report by Efrayim Davidi]

[Excerpt] Ghassan al-Biyari has again won the elections for the post of chairman of the Gaza Strip Palestine Trade Union Federation, established in 1965. Al-Biyari told DAVAR yesterday he was unanimously elected by more than the 50 union heads, and will serve in the post for another term of two years.

Three lists competed in the elections: Fatah, the People's Party (the former Communist Party), and the Democratic Front. The results of the elections indicate that control over the trade unions remain in the hands of Fatah, considering the fact that al-Biyari is affiliated with this organization. The radical Muslim groups have absolutely no foothold in Gaza Strip trade unions. [passage omitted]

Islamic Jihad's al-Shaqaqi Interviewed

PM1401140894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Jan 94 p 6

[Report on interview with Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Movement, by Ibrahim Humaydi in Damascus; date not given]

[Text] Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Movement, has stressed that the failure of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) or any other faction to boycott the self-rule elections would torpedo the "Alliance of Palestinian Forces" formed recently by the 10 factions opposed to the peace process. However, he pointed to the assertion by representatives of Hamas that it will not participate in these elections.

In an interview with AL-HAYAH, al-Shaqaqi said he expects Fatah—the Revolutionary Council, led by Sabri al-Banna (Abu-Nidal), to join the alliance. He said: "I am not alarmed" at that. He said that Iran's "aid to us is much less than many people imagine." And that the money is transferred to the leaderships inside [the occupied territories] through trade operations between the inside and the outside.

Dr. al-Shaqaqi said that he "strongly supports the idea of expanding the alliance so as to include the largest number of opposition forces possible," including Fatah—the Revolutionary Council (led by Abu-Nidal). He expects this movement to request to join the opposition alliance. "Or we may invite it to join us" in the future. "I personally am not alarmed at the existence of this color in the coalition." However, he stressed that the question "has not yet been raised at the 10 factions' meetings."

The secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement said that he "played a special role" to avert the failure of the central meeting held recently by the 10 factions. "I managed to bring views closer among these organizations, due to our awareness of the seriousness of this stage. No one wants to be held responsible for obstructing the plan" opposed to the self-rule [agreement] signed between Israel and the PLO. He stressed: "None of the participants made any real concession, because all were winners. We deferred the influence question and left it up to reality, because it is reality which determines the influence of every faction"—a reference to the deferment of the question of every faction's share in the "leadership committee." Hamas wants a 40-percent share of representation.

Asked for his opinion of the alliance's ability to form an alternative organization to the PLO or to rebuild the PLO, al-Shaqaqi said: "I have no problem. What is important is the political program. And even when the PLO was formed on the basis of influence, it did not reflect the reality precisely."

He added that his decision does not focus on a certain tendency's leadership of the alliance of factions, and its demand for a larger representation ratio "reflects our self-confidence, because the organization is not an idol we worship. What we are interested in is public welfare, hence our stress on the political program." He pointed out that the real role of any Palestinian organization should be played on the ground.

He confirmed that Hamas representatives had stressed their refusal to participate in the upcoming self-rule elections. "If anyone deviates from this, we will pull out (of the alliance), and any deviation from the political program would cause us to abandon it." He said that the agreed political program "is a common denominator" among the views of all organizations, while there are some differences over certain questions.

On the ability of these factions to topple the Gaza-Jericho agreement, al-Shaqaqi said: "We are aware of the difficulty of the matter in view of the absence of international support. However, the weakness of the agreement, the continuation of the intifadah, the people's rejection of the agreement, and the continuation of the jihad indicate that it may collapse."

He pointed to the existence of "Arab and Iranian support" for those opposed to the agreement. He said that "there is an atmosphere of opposition in the region, and we must exploit it. This can be done by asserting our influence on the ground, thus prompting our friends to provide further aid. Our weakness would cause them to lose confidence in us."

Al-Shaqaqi added that "the forces supporting us will be willing to offer more political support when we are united." On his relationship with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, al-Shaqaqi said: "There is no personal problem between us, and there has never been any direct contact in our history. The national criterion is the basis of the relationship, and the position is political." He pointed to "a war of circumvention and blackmail" which 'Arafat exercised against the Islamic Jihad. He said that the Palestinian president "traded in our movement's name by using some of the distorted names and models which he tried to manufacture for himself on the Palestinian scene." And that he "ordered one of his supporters to announce the Islamic Jihad's support for the agreement."

With regard to the movement's relationship with Syria, the Islamic Jihad Movement secretary general said that Damascus "is open to all Arabs. It is in a state of war with the Zionist entity. It has no objection to the presence of Palestinian forces working from Syria to liberate their land, as this is in line with the general political orientation in Syria." He pointed out that one of the movement's deportees whom Israel allowed to return from south Lebanon refused to return to the occupied territories and is present now in Damascus.

Al-Shaqaqi said that Iranian financial to the movement "is limited; we admire the Iranian revolution's ideas opposed to international arrogance and calling for the liberation of all Palestine."

He said that aid is transferred to the inside through "trade operations between the inside and Europe and Egypt. It is an easy process. The aid is received by neutral parties inside." He added that the Jihad leadership focuses "primarily on the inside. So all our resources are sent there. We do not want to conduct any organizational development outside."

He noted that coordination between the inside and the leadership outside is conducted through the normal communication means, namely telephone, fax, and personal representatives. "Our cadres total a few thousands while our supporters exceed this number by far."

He pointed out that the movement is currently considering the idea of unifying the military wing in order to adopt one of two known names: the "Struggling Islamic Forces" [al-quwwat al-islamiyah al-mujahidah] or "Battalions of the Sword of Islam" [kata'ib sayf al-'Islam]. He also said that the movement had carried out several military operations inside; "we acquire our weapons through arms dealers inside, through smuggling from neighboring states, or through purchase from traders acting as brokers with Israeli soldiers."

On his movement's relationship with Hamas, al-Shaqaqi pointed out that "there is coordination between us, and we will contest the engineer union elections in Gaza on one list in the next few days. We do not deny Hamas' distinguished role" in the occupied territories. He stressed that the idea of "unity with Hamas is not far off." And that time "has reduced differences between us, and political positions are similar now. We are aware that organizational accounts do not disappear easily, and we are currently working to end these sensitivities in order to achieve the cooperation and unity plans." He pointed to the existence of "security" difficulties obstructing the formation of the "National and Islamic Command of the Intifadah," which the opposition factions have agreed to set up, and "we will work to iron out the difficulties."

Vatican Firm on Inalienable Rights, Jerusalem

LD1801215494 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] A PLO delegation that visited the Vatican during the last three days, has reached an agreement on the setting up of a joint committee to define the existing bilateral relations between the organization [PLO] and the Vatican, in an official document.

The Vatican spokesman considered what has been achieved during the bilateral meetings between the organization and the Vatican as an important starting point that constitutes an initial step toward officially promoting the relations.

The organization's delegation, led by brother Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, member of the PLO Executive Committee, Nimr Hammad, Ibrahim al-Daqqaq, and Zuhdi al-Tarazi, had held talks over two days at the Vatican with a high-ranking Vatican delegation led by the Vatican's foreign minister [title as received], Jean-Louis Tauran, and with the participation of the deputy [foreign] minister and the head of the Middle East Department.

The Vatican's official delegation said during the talks that the Vatican's policy was firm and has not changed regarding the Palestinian people's inalienable rights, the issue of Jerusalem, and the Palestinian people's right to regain it, and the Vatican's commitment to legal legitimacy on the basis of UN Resolution 181, stipulating the partition [of Palestine] and the establishment of two states [Palestine and Israel].

In another development, WAFA's [Palestinian news agency] correspondent in Rome has learnt that the Palestinian-Vatican joint committee will continue its meeting at a later time to draw up all the details in connection with bilateral relations.

Algeria

Amnesty for FIS Leaders 'Not Ruled Out'

PM1801154694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Jan 94 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Algeria: Kafi Decides To Live in Tunisia"]

[Excerpt] Algeria—AL-HAYAH has learned that Algerian President 'Ali Kafi has decided to live in Tunisia after leaving power on 31 January.

Well-informed sources have told AL-HAYAH that secret contacts have been made at the highest level between Tunisia and Algeria to guarantee President Kafi's security and stability after the end of the Higher State Council's term.

The president's wife had gone to Switzerland to look for a place for them to live in, but the president prefers to live in an Arab country.

A source close to the National Dialogue Commission told AL-HAYAH that the commission yesterday proposed to President Kafi to issue an amnesty for the "Salvation Front leaders" to enable to them to participate in the "National Seminar" scheduled for 25 and 26 January. It is not ruled out that the president may issue an amnesty including Abassi Madani, leader of the Islamic Salvation Front. [passage omitted]

Statement by Defense Minister on Crisis

LD1601231394 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1934 GMT 16 Jan 94

[Speech by National Defense Minister Lamine Zeroual to the nation; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Male and female citizens, I have the honor to address you today while the country is about to encounter a decisive stage in its history. The roots of the political crisis that is storming our country go back to the last few years. The crisis grew under the overall weakness of the state and its institutions, and it started to grow further and expand with the passing of time until it reached its peak in October 1988 when an explosion occurred. This exposed other sides of the crisis in the economic, social, and security spheres, and every opportunity became available to internal and external destructive elements to achieve dubious objectives based on the distortion of facts as a means of consolidating a feeling of failure and waste among deprived citizens.

The spread of selfishness, egocentricity, and the dominance of narrow partisan perceptions over wider national interests contributed to the further complication of the crisis.

After this brief review of the nature of the crisis, it may be useful to recall its major causes:

Political causes:

1. The weakness of the political system that provided the opportunity for parasitic [tufayli] political tendencies and groups with vested interests to reach many positions of responsibility in the economy, administration, and other sensitive state bodies;

2. Blatant contradictions between the programs and ideas of some parties, and their noncompliance with the terms of the Constitution, which clearly define the nation's ideals and its firmly-established values;

3. The prevalence of party over national affiliation in many parties and their narrow understanding of pluralism and democratic practice in their effort to attain power;

4. The wavering of public opinion and its lack of concern due to loss of confidence in the authorities as a result of the contradiction between the authorities' public declarations and actual practices, and as a result of dissatisfaction with the programs of many parties.

Economic causes:

1. The mismanagement of the economy;

2. The disruption in the manufacturing sectors in general as a result of the repeated restructuring that has become the main characteristic of management for many years;

3. The destructive squandering of the country's hard currency reserves and other financial resources through the use of demagogic slogans;

4. The use of short-term loans to cover the state's deficit caused by spending and consumption, a matter that has led to an increase in the servicing of foreign debts that were eating into three-quarters of the country's financial resources at the end of 1993;

5. The encouragement of the smuggling phenomenon through the opening of borders without providing the necessary measures for the protection of the national economy.

Social causes:

1. The rise in unemployment as a result of putting a brake on investment, development, and as a result of the continual shedding of manpower in organizations;

2. The state's abandonment of its social role, particularly in the field of housing and jobs to which attention had been paid in the last few years;

3. Infractions by some of the institutions of the administration in the form of widespread bureaucratic abuses: Graft, nepotism, and breaking the law in many cases;

4. The unequal sharing of national income.

All these causes have led to the aggravation and deterioration of the crisis and although matters have become more complex, it is quite possible to contain them and find suitable and gradual solutions to tackling them.

This requires, first of all, goodwill from all the sides and the concerted efforts of all the sincere patriots and upright citizens in all social strata, parties, societies, vocational groupings, factories, farms, schools, and universities in order to arrive at a political solution that responds to the aspirations of our people and that would match the greatness of Algeria and its historical revolution and its contemporary values. At the same time, they should show wisdom and a spirit of true patriotism and place the interest of the country above all considerations and adhere to the unchanging historic and spiritual values of the Algerian people, and discard for good all aspects of violence in political action.

Within this framework, the National People's Army has repeatedly given proof of its good intentions. Thus, its' full readiness to contribute in an effective manner to the search for a solution that might take the country out of the current political crisis and its' withdrawal from the political scene for the past five years are clear proof of its respect for the people's will following the adoption of the 1989 Constitution. The National People's Army's withdrawal from political life does not, however, mean that it will remain with its' hands tied when there are mistakes and serious abuses that have threatened and are still threatening the people's fate and the future of the nation as a whole.

I would also like to point out here that the Army's withdrawal from the political scene means, furthermore, that the military will not henceforth accept being an instrument of political struggle or anyone's ambitions.

This is a principled stance by the Army; there will be no moving away from it and nor should it be subjected to any trickery or manipulation.

On the other hand, the agreement of the Army to the request of the political class to be present at the National Dialogue Commission does not in any way mean going back on this principle, rather the opposite. The National People's Army, as a patriotic melting pot, should always be alongside the patriots who want to get the country out of the crisis that it has been enduring as a result of the methods of previous management.

The matter here concerns patriotic action, which should be an example followed by all the political and social partners as it would lead them to shoulder their responsibilities before history and carry out their tasks before the nation. The National People's Army adheres to its well-known principles that derive from the ideals of the patriotic movement and the declaration of the glorious November revolution, in which Islam remains a reference point for civilized development and the natural framework for social enlightenment as practiced by our nation throughout the ages.

In these difficult circumstances, the Army considers participation in overcoming the crisis as a patriotic matter that is binding on all. Anyone who retreats, or acts according to their own whims or personal or partisan ambitions will, in actual fact, be expressing their own failure and not the failure of society or of the political formations as a whole. This is because the country is approaching the national concord conference and also an interim period that will open up a new era for the Algerian people through which it can regain confidence in it's ability, and choose it's leaders and it's political institutions quite freely and away from any pressures or misrepresentations.

We would like to assert very strongly here that any solution to the crisis lies in the ability of the political classes to surmount narrow-mindlessness and partisan interests and to be up to the real tasks.

Fortunately, our political class does include many men and women who are very patriotic and sincere and who are determined to face up to the challenges, surmount short-term interests and give momentum to the real changes for which our people have been calling.

We see this change in the form of a clean break with past practices and the methods of management at all political, economic, and social levels.

The break, in which we believe and for which we are calling, should make a radical change in state institutions and functions by creating new criteria for them.

Given the colossal nature of the crisis and its complications, and given the radical nature of the changes that must be brought about, the National People's Army believes that such a break, to which our people aspire, will be achieved through the creation of a new national political system.

This new national system will consolidate true democracy, guarantee all individual and collective liberties, put a final end to political, economic, cultural and ideological monopolies, and help with the emergence of new men capable of bringing about these changes, the reification of the nation's aspirations for peace, fraternity, advancement, and the restoration of Algeria's standing and its position among nations.

In order to achieve all that, the National People's Army addresses a call to all male and female Algerians who are loyal to their homeland, and assures them that it will do its utmost to prepare the right circumstances to enable them to offer their contributions in order to save the country and return it to safe grounds.

May God help us all to succeed in doing what is good for the country. Glory and eternal life to our honorable martyrs. Peace and God's blessings be upon you.

French Woman's Death Causes Concern

LD1501211994 Paris France-Info Radio in French 2100 GMT 15 Jan 94

[Text] A French woman was shot with two bullets in the head this afternoon in Algiers. The woman, aged 45, was married to an Algerian and the mother of three children. She worked with the French Consulate in Algiers. She was the fourth French citizen to be killed in Algeria since last September, and the 25th foreigner killed in the country.

The Quai d'Orsay [Foreign Ministry] has condemned what it has called an odious crime. The French ambassador was received this evening by Algerian Prime Minister Redha Malek. He told him about the concern of the French Government. As a sign of mourning, all French services in Algeria will be closed tomorrow, 16 January.

Egypt

Mubarak Receives Telephone Call From Syria's al-Asad

NC1801161294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a telephone call from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad this afternoon. During the call, the two leaders reviewed the Geneva summit between U.S. President Bill Clinton and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad as well as future steps in the peace process.

Cabinet Reviews Geneva Summit, Bosnia, Terrorism

NC1801191494 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Excerpts] The Cabinet met this morning under Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa briefed the Cabinet on the peace process and the contacts made on the matter. Musa described the summit between U.S. President Bill Clinton and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad as a new sign in the peace process, noting that the summit was successful by any standard. Musa referred to the telephone call between Presidents Clinton and Mubarak on the issue. He reviewed the impact of the summit on relations between Syria and the United States and on the Lebanese-Israeli peace talks, adding that this could lead to a just peace on the basis of land for peace. The foreign minister's report referred to the Palestinian-Israeli track and the results reached by the two sides during their ongoing meetings regarding the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement. The report also referred to the agreement between Jordan and the PLO.

Musa noted that there is an Egyptian-Palestinian draft agreement to set up joint projects and open branches of Egyptian banks in Gaza and Jericho. He pointed out that the draft agreement is expected to be signed in Cairo soon.

Turning to the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the foreign minister referred to the partition plan and the position of the parties to the conflict on this plan. He noted that NATO is ready to use force to implement the partition agreement under the supervision of the Security Council. [passage omitted]

The Cabinet then reviewed a report by Interior Minister Hasan al- Alfi in which he discussed the internal security situation and the Interior Ministry's efforts on this matter. Al-Alfi pointed out that the ministry is following a plan based on a clear-cut security strategy. Noting that confronting extremism remains a key security element, the interior minister pointed out that improved methods have been recently introduced. More extensive security operations against dens of extremism have been mounted, particularly in shantytowns, Upper Egypt, and some other governorates. Coordination between state security and public security agencies has been stepped up to pursue and swiftly arrest fugitives.

The minister noted that the list of suspects at airports, ports, and other points of entry and exit has been widened and extra measures have been taken to confront leading extremists with a view to isolating them and cutting off their contacts with their cadres. In addition, any signs of agitation or escalation by extremists are being dealt with firmly and their schemes among the masses are being frustrated. The minister pointed out that plans by the military wing of the terrorist organizations have been aborted, their influential leaders have been arrested, and their dens stormed. He noted that his ministry is confronting some signs of corruption and deviation as part of the government's policy and in a bid to demonstrate the integrity of the regime.

The interior minister pointed out that security cooperation with some Arab countries in the areas of coordination and handing over fugitives is being upgraded. He reviewed his contacts during the Arab interior ministers' meeting in Tunis, adding that they have led to the arrest of some fugitives. He referred to the decline in the rate of seizure of unlicensed weapons, cases of drug trafficking, embezzlement, squandering of public wealth, and bribery.

During the meeting, the Cabinet approved a number of draft laws, including one regulating the use of foreign currency. The new bill lifts the current restrictions and procedures that are no longer compatible with the free exchange regulations in Egypt and allows travelers to take out foreign currency without any restrictions or documents. The Cabinet also approved a draft law organizing the cotton trade in the country. The bill seeks to liberalize the sale and purchase of cotton in accordance with the market economy and the principle of free trade.

The Cabinet also approved a draft law setting up a Cotton Exchange for spot transactions to be called the Mina al-Basal Exchange. Cotton will be sold and purchased through this exchange, which will be based in Alexandria. The Cabinet also approved a draft civil code that will remedy the loopholes that exist in the current law. Under the new law, automation will be introduced to prevent the forgery of identity cards and all relevant information for each citizen will be stored and given a computerized number. The Cabinet also approved a number of international agreements.

Paper Says Geneva Summit Creates Worries for Rabin

NC1801221594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2110 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR has said that the Clinton-al-Asad summit in Geneva worries Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin: He has not responded to what the U.S. President himself declared after he was convinced by the Syrian president's stance. Rabin, as usual, tried to equivocate and sidestep statements by inventing arguments and excuses. This is especially evident in his statement that the Syrian pledge to normalize relations with Israel is not specific and that it needs to be explained and clarified.

The newspaper noted in a commentary that will be published tomorrow, Wednesday, the opinion of political observers that the Syrian-U.S. meeting affirmed to President Clinton the honesty of his Syrian counterpart's intentions and his true desire to participate in restoring real peace to the region.

The newspaper believes that Rabin's former stances throw some doubt on U.S. coordinator Dennis Ross' expectations that the Geneva summit has provided a new opportunity for peace efforts and that the talks will soon resume in a more flexible atmosphere.

Authorities Arrest 60 in Cairo Security Sweeps

NC1901072994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0655 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jan (MENA)—The areas of al-Ma'sarah, al-Huda, and Wadi Hawf in south Cairo were the scene of intensive security sweeps early this morning involving units from the State Intelligence Department, the Traffic Department, the Central Security Forces, and regular officers. The forces imposed a security cordon around the three areas while other forces carried out sweeps to arrest fugitive terrorist and criminal elements.

A police unit manning a highway roadblock arrested one terrorist and wounded another. Two more escaped. The four terrorists were riding in a pickup truck. Police fired on the truck after the four refused to stop at the roadblock.

The sweeps resulted in the arrest of 60 fugitive criminals. Two criminals were caught redhanded with a load of stolen iron in their car.

Casualties Reported in Raids

NC1901103694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jan (MENA)—One terrorist was killed during the sweeps carried out by security forces in south Cairo early this morning. The sweeps covered the areas of al-Ma'sarah, al-Huda, and Wadi Hawf. One soldier was killed and two were wounded during the exchange of fire between the terrorist elements and the security forces.

[Paris AFP in English at 1019 GMT on 19 January adds the following: "Two suspected Muslim fundamentalists and a policeman were killed when the security forces swept through a Cairo suburb looking for Islamic militants and common criminals on Wednesday, police said.

"Two other policemen were wounded in clashes during the raids in the southern suburb of al-Ma'sarah, which netted 60 suspects.

"Armoured vehicles from the riot squad took part in the operation, and the area was still sealed off on Wednesday afternoon."]

Interior Minister Discusses Terrorism Threat

NC1901074294 Cairo MENA in English 2300 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, Jan 18—(MENA)—Terrorism is imperiling the security and stability not only of Egypt but of all the Arab countries as well, Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi said this evening.

Al-Alfi, at a meeting of the Shura (advisory) Council's Committee for Arab and Foreign Affairs and National Security, underlined that terrorists are a negligible minority and do not represent the Egyptian people and that the matter requires concerted efforts to confront such a danger.

Thousands of cassette tapes propagating destructive ideas were seized and hotbeds in which they recorded stormed, he said.

On exaggeration by some foreign news agencies of violent acts in Egypt, al-Alfi said he is keen on having everything made clear to the public without concealing facts.

These media organs are releasing mendacious reports to hasten a coverage without paying due attention to real conditions, he said.

During recent months, some 12,500 unlicenced arms were seized he specified. He said he is vehemently against random detention of citizens, specially women, without clear charges.

Authorities are conducting daily and surprise inspections of prisons which have full discipline, he added.

Minister: Libya's al-Kikhya 'Refugee in Another Country'

NC1801163994 Cairo MENA in English 1404 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, Jan 18 (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi said in press statements published here today that Libyan opposition leader Mansur al-Kikhya is a refugee in another country. Egypt protects refugees who are in [word indistinct], he said.

Al-Kikhya carries several nationalities, he came to Egypt carrying Algerian passport to take part in a conference of the Arab Human Rights Organization. After the conference, he stayed (?in the hotel). He continued to stay without notifying the Egyptian authorities.

The minister made the statements in an interview with [word indistinct] circulating Arabic daily (?AL-AKHBAR) today.

Al-Kikhya came to Egypt to take part in the Arab Human Rights Organization conference. He did not come to Egypt as a refugee. We did our duty and provided complete security to the conferees. Nothing happened during the conference, the minister of interior said. Al-Kikhya went to Alexandria where he spent two days in the week after [words indistinct] its meetings. He later returned to Cairo. Certain individuals contacted him and asked to meet him. After that he moved alone.

The police are making investigations about the persons who met al-Kikhya, his movements and the places he visited, the minister of interior said.

Information Minister Returns From Visit to Libya

NC1801210394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al- Sharif has returned to Cairo from Libya after a one-day visit to the Jamahiriyah.

The information minister handed Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, a message from President Husni Mubarak on bilateral relations between the two countries, the most important current Arab and international affairs, and the Arab and regional situation. The message is part of the continuous consultations between the two leaders.

MENA Denies Sudan Claim of Free Casts to Opposition

NC1801164994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1506 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA)—The Sudanese weekly newspaper AL-MASIRAH claimed in its issue published yesterday that the MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY-MENA is providing the Sudanese opposition newspaper AL-ITTIHAD AL-DUWALIYAH with a newscast free of charge after being instructed by the Egyptian Government to do so.

MENA says that this claim is not true. The news agency challenges anyone to prove that it is distributing its casts free of charge upon instruction from any side. Such a move goes against its policies and traditions as an independent media institution with a commercial base. Therefore, it does not provide any media services free whether to a Sudanese or non-Sudanese newspaper, or even to an Egyptian newspaper.

The news agency affirms to the Sudanese newspaper that published the report that the Sudanese opposition newspaper has no agreements with MENA to provide it with news reports. Therefore, the Sudanese newspaper's report is part of attempts to discredit Egyptian media.

MENA hopes that the Sudanese newspaper will confirm its reports before publishing them so that it will not lose its credibility.

France's Juppe Describes Relations as 'Excellent'

BR1801154594 Paris LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS in French 15-16 Jan 94 p 11

[Report by Cairo correspondent Tula Mansour: "Juppe in the Fundamentalists' Stronghold"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Cairo—Foreign Minister Alain Juppe started his official visit to Cairo with a private visit to Upper Egypt, for the sake of a bit of tourism. Indeed, this was a highly symbolic gesture because that region is the stronghold of the Islamic activists.

Since his arrival at the Quai d'Orsay [Foreign Affairs Ministry], Alain Juppe had not had the opportunity to see the splendors of Egyptian archaeology... Would he visit Upper Egypt? Yes, he dared to do so to set a good example, reassure the tourists, but primarily to reassure the Egyptian population. Juppe had set aside two days in his timetable for a private visit: Luxor, Aswan, Sinai. It was a direct response to the Muslim fundamentalists.

Alain Juppe described Franco-Egyptian relations as "excellent." "The fundamentalist violence is not capable of affecting our bilateral relations. In 1993, the total value of commercial transactions between the two countries was more than 6 billion French francs [Fr]. Every year, Fr460 million is granted in annual aid. France's financial contribution will not be suspended," the minister stated.

The attack on the Semiramis hotel, which took place on the eve of President Mubarak's visit to Paris last November, and the machine-gun attack on Austrian tourists at Christmas in downtown Cairo during Francois Mitterrand's semiprivate visit did not discourage

Alain Juppe from visiting Egypt. The avowed objective of this visit was: "To plan a meeting of several foreign ministers from countries bordering on the Mediterranean to strengthen cooperation in the framework of the five-plus-five dialogue." This agreement was signed in 1990 among the southern European countries: France, Italy, Spain, Malta, and Portugal, and those of the Arab Maghreb. The work was suspended because of the conflict with Libya and is therefore now being revived with the choice of a new partner: Egypt.

According to Alain Juppe's spokesman, a summit will be held in June. It will be preceded by meetings of experts and intellectuals from the Mediterranean countries. Eyes will be turned toward Algeria, which must not be allowed to topple. All the neighboring countries would then be contaminated. The mistakes made in Algeria must be avoided with Egypt. There will therefore be no statements about indivisible democracy, but no anti-Islamic propaganda either... The language of moderation is being spoken. This is also the aim of Alain Juppe's visit.

Two ambitious projects are on the agenda: The increase in French-speaking courses in Egyptian universities and the creation of bilingual classes in high schools. The "Juppe plan" is to penetrate the middle classes, promote dual cultures, and create new youth movements capable of overcoming those who are preaching a closed society and a policy of isolation by the indigenous cultures.

Jordan Bans Entry of Muslim Brotherhood Leader

NC1801202294 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 17 Jan 94 p 15

[Report by Wa'il al-Ibrashi]

[Text] Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, official spokesman of the banned Muslim Brotherhood, has returned on the same flight that took him to Jordan after he was prevented by the Jordanian authorities at the airport from entering the country last Thursday in the first case of its kind experienced by al-Hudaybi, who has regularly visited Jordan for the past 20 years.

Al-Hudaybi, who appeared moved by the sudden Jordanian decision, told ROSE AL-YUSUF: I was going to visit my physician daughter, who is married to a physician, lives in Jordan, and has Jordanian citizenship. I spoke to her on the telephone and told her: I am coming to visit you. I have been visiting her for the past 20 years. What happened!

[Al-Ibrashi] Was there a political, party, Muslim Brotherhood, or other conference or meeting?

[Al-Hudaybi] Not at all. This was a family visit unrelated to any other activity.

[Al-Ibrashi] Did the Jordanian authorities give you any explanation for preventing you from entering the country?

[Al-Hudaybi] I asked them and they told me that you are banned from entering the country. I asked them why. They said: We are security people and carry out instructions. I tried to see the security director. I tried to talk to anyone. But they prevented me and did not want to listen. My daughter was waiting for me at the airport. I tried to see her, but they also prevented me.

Al-Hudaybi added: I have not recently said anything at all against Jordan. On the contrary, I have praised the democratic experiment in Jordan in the wake of the recent elections. The Muslim Brotherhood there is recognized and licensed. The party won 18 seats in the recent elections. I was only going to see my daughter.

Meanwhile, Jordanian diplomatic sources have told ROSE AL-YUSUF that the Jordanian authorities have adopted new measures regarding the entry of the leaders and members of fundamentalist groups. They said that they have no knowledge or explanation why al-Hudaybi was banned from entering Jordan and whether this ban is part of these measures or there are other reasons.

Jordan has recently arrested on arrival 15 Jordanians and Palestinians returning from Afghanistan. Before that, it arrested others and released some of them following the intervention of the Muslim Brotherhood there. Some are still being detained.

Libya

General People's Congress To Meet in Surt on 22 Jan

LD1801132894 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] The secretariat of the General People's Congress [GPC] today issued the following decision on the convening of a GPC session:

The GPC is being convened to draft the resolutions of the basic people's congresses at their second regular session of the year 1403 after the Prophet's death [1994]. The GPC session will start on Saturday, 10 Sha'ban 1403 after the Prophet's death, corresponding to 22 January 1994, in the Hall of Loyalty in the city of Surt, at exactly 0900 [0700 GMT].

Cabinet Venue Reportedly Moved to al-Kufrah

NC1801134994 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 17 Jan 94 p 78

[Text] Libyan ministers are facing extreme hardship because the venue of the Libyan cabinet meetings has been moved to al-Kufrah, a desert region 800 km away from Tripoli. The ministers, who have their homes in Tripoli, are thus forced to remain in al- Kufrah.

The decision to move the venue of the cabinet meetings came as a punishment from al-Qudhdhafi to the ministers after Prime Minister Abu-zayd Durdah submitted a memorandum of reforms that he prepared with 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, who has secluded himself in his home after al-Qadhdhafi refused to discuss the memorandum with him.

Morocco

Cabinet Discusses Chemical Weapons Treaty

LD1801200494 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Mohamed Karim Lambrani today presided over a Council of Ministers meeting, during which a number of draft decrees were discussed. [passage omitted]

After that, the Council [of Ministers] discussed the treaty banning the development, production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons, along with the destruction of those weapons, as well as the draft law on the approval, in principle, of this agreement under which the signatory countries undertake not to develop, produce, possess, keep or transport chemical weapons, either directly or indirectly, under any circumstances. The signatory countries also undertake to destroy the chemical weapons they possess and accord paramount priority to ensuring the safety of people and the protection of the environment in the course of transporting, storing, or destroying these weapons. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Bashir Cites Reasons for U.S. 'Hostility'

EA1801165094 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, president of the republic, has described the foreign interference in Sudan's internal affairs as an obstacle to the settlement of the country's problems through dialogue. He said that the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development is working for a peaceful settlement of [word indistinct] the south and other African areas. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir explained that the information campaign launched by the Western states against Sudan, which lacks substantiation and evidence, aims to distort the reputation of Sudan. In an interview in the magazine SOCIETY, he said that diplomats residing in Khartoum and some neutral personalities had confirmed that Sudan's record of human rights is better than that of the advanced states. Some envoys of human rights organizations also witnessed to the nonexistence of violations of human rights in Sudan.

On American hostility toward Sudan, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir explained that the cause of disagreement between Sudan and the United States began after the existence of a sovereign independent leadership in Sudan. His Excellency added that the United States wants a government that can be controlled. It also sees Islam as a threat to its interests in the Middle East and the states neighboring the region.

This is in addition to the effect on American foreign policy in the Middle East of the Zionist Israeli orientation that is biased against Islam.

Al-Bashir Praises Redivision of States Project

EA1801195094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, president of the Republic, has affirmed that the government is striving, with firm steps, towards consolidating the pillars of federal rule at this historic stage through which the country is passing. This was said when he met, in his office today at the Friendship Hall, a delegation from Bara Province visiting Khartoum to take part in the consultative meeting which convened recently between the president and executive and popular leaderships to discuss the redivision of the states.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir explained to the delegation that the government relies upon the project for the redivision of the states because of the revenue that it will achieve in the field of development, despite its exorbitant financial cost. Lt. Gen. al- Bashir explained that the new states need an unleashing of energies and the deployment of available resources to guarantee the continuation of true development. He pointed out that there is no way of building Sudan except by self-reliance and concerted official and popular effort.

Foreign Minister on PRC Minister's Visit

EA1801193094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih, the foreign minister, has affirmed the importance of the visit of the Chinese delegation which visited the country recently led by the deputy chairman of the State Council and foreign minister. He noted that during the visit ways of strengthening bilateral relations and fields of bilateral and regional cooperation were discussed. Dr. Abu-Salih explained, at the Foreign Ministry forum today, that China pursues a policy of economic openness and it can find many opportunities for investment in Sudan in various fields. He explained that it contributes to many important projects in the country, like the Hamdab Dam project and the elevation of Al-Rusayris Dam and energy and irrigation projects.

Dr. Abu-Salih touched on the visit of the Iranian delegation to the country, representing the Ministry of Construction Jihad. He pointed out the firm cooperation between Sudan and Iran.

Ambassador (Mityang Malwal Mabor), director of the Peace Department at the Foreign Ministry and member of the government's delegation to the negotiations of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] states, which were recently held in Nairobi, also spoke at the information forum of the Foreign Ministry. He said that ministers of the four IGADD states, who had been entrusted with establishing peace in Sudan, had submitted their report in this respect to Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi. He explained that the Kenyan president, chairman of the IGADD committee, will hold consultations with the presidents of Uganda, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, president of the Republic, to discuss ways of establishing peace in the south of the country.

Saudi Minister Welcomes U.S. Secretary to GCC Meeting

LD1601212294 Riyadh SPA in English 2016 GMT 16 Jan 94

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 16, SPA—The Gulf Cooperation Counicl (GCC) and the United States held a meeting here today under the co-chairmanship of Saudi Commerce Minister Sulayman al-Sulayyim, and U.S. Trade Secretary Ronald Brown.

The meeting was attended by GCC delegations and senior officials.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Saudi minister welcomed the participants and expressed his sincere wishes that their visit would boost U.S.-GCC economic dialogue.

He expressed appreciation for the U.S. people and government for their support during the Gulf crisis and stressed that "our joint effort to support international legitimacy" had led to the liberation of Kuwait.

He confirmed the GCC desire to enhance economic cooperation with the United States to coincide with excellent political and strategic relations between the two sides.

He expressed satisfaction with the development of trade between the U.S. and the GCC and pointed out that today's meeting would help expand and diversify trade exchange.

"I would like to cease [as received] this opportunity to congratulate the U.S. Government on successfully concluding the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and I would also like to express our complete satisfaction with the outcome of the Uruguay round of international trade negotiations," al-Sulayyim said adding that these two accomplishments were two steps on the right path towards a more liberated world trade order.

He said GCC states firmly believe in the freedom of trade and keenly follow up the growth of world trade and are seriously considering joining the GATT agreement.

He said the Kingdom has officially applied for GATT membership and expressed hope that the U.S. would support this request. He also pointed out that Bahrain has recently joined the GATT.

He also confirmed the keenness of GCC states on the protection of copy rights and the facilitation of resolving trade disputes. He pointed in this connection to the decision by the recent GCC summit to set up a commercial arbitration center and a previous summit's decision to approve the patent system and set up an office for the protection of copy rights.

Dr. al-Sulayyim expressed hope that these measures would encourage and protect direct U.S. investments in GCC states and said he was looking forward to negotiations on a legal formula for an agreement on the protection and encouragement of exchanged investments in the United States and GCC countries.

Turning to the field of energy, he said it was an important sector of GCC-U.S. cooperation and stressed that their bilateral dialogue had led to exchanging information and evaluating this important sector.

He said the GCC, as a main source of producing hydrocarbon energy, and the United States, main consumer, have a joint interest in establishing healthy and stable energy markets. He said their joint efforts in this field would give a positive signal to the energy industry to encourage investments and meet future international demand.

However, he expressed GCC [word indistinct] about growing trends in consumer countries to place more hurdles in the face of energy trade with the excuse of protecting the environment.

He said GCC states agree with this noble goal but do not believe that prejudice against oil for the sake of other more polluting energy sources is required or justified.

"That is why we look forward to the understanding and empathy of our friends in the United States for this legitimate concern," he said.

Brown addressed the meeting confirming that GCC states and the U.S. have joint economic interests.

He said GCC states look forward to new industries and the U.S. looks forward to new markets. He added that GCC states aim to attract international investments to realize security and the U.S. aims to reach security by increasing investments outside its borders.

He stressed that their joint efforts could lead to an unusually successful economic cooperation.

He expressed confidence that current meetings and talks between the U.S. and the GCC would increase their chances to found more liberated markets and closer cooperation.

He underlined the importance of U.S. efforts to reach an international agreement on the GATT and confirmed that the Clinton administration aims to realize a more open and active international economy and pointed to current negotiation between the U.S. and Japan to reach a trade balance between them.

He added that the United States has realized that its national security is linked to its economic security and that is why it has expanded its international relations.

He said the return of peace to the Middle East stimulates hope to provide more freedom to devote resources to more economic development.

He also confirmed that economic development can bolster the stability of peace.

Bahrain

Defense Minister Leaves for UK on Official Visit

JN1601100294 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0725 GMT 16 Jan 94

[Text] Manama, 16 Jan (WAKH)—Staff Lieutenant General Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Ahmad Al Khalifah, defense minister and deputy commander in chief of the State of Bahrain, left Manama early this morning for the United Kingdom on an official visit lasting several days.

The Bahraini minister will hold talks with British Defense Secretary Malcollm Rifkind on ways to enhance military ties between the two friendly nations and issues of mutual concern.

Kuwait

Official Provides 6-Month Oil Revenue Figures

LD1801182894 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1510 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 18 Jan (KUNA)—The second deputy prime minister and minister of finance and planning Nasir al-Rawdan said today that oil revenues between 1 July 1993 and the end of last year reached 1.235 billion Kuwaiti dinars whereas nonoil revenues were only 166 million dinars. This came in a financial report, a copy of which was obtained by KUNA, which was presented by al-Rawdan to the National Assembly on the economic situation in Kuwait, on problems and challenges facing it, and recommondations that might boost the economy.

The report predicted, however, that Kuwait's oil revenues could be as much as 944 million dinars during the next six months presuming output would remain at two million barrels per day and at an average of $10.50 per barrel. [passage omitted]

Oman

Qabus Tells Nation To Brace for Job Nationalization

NC1401170294 Paris AFP in English 1401 GMT 14 Jan 94

[Text] Muscat, Jan 14 (AFP)—Oman's ruler, in a face-to-face chat with his people, has urged them not to be lazy and prepare to take over jobs from foreigners as the Gulf state presses on with a nationalisation drive.

Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id said around 400,000 jobs taken up by Asians and other expatriates were awaiting Omanis and asked local religious and tribal leaders to encourage young men to engage in work.

Qabus, whose speech was broadcast on state-run Omani television Thursday night, said foreigners accounted for 26 percent of the population and the government wanted to cut the level to 10 percent.

"It is time for serious work. Let us work together to achieve that objective," he told Omanis in an outdoor meeting, part of his annual meet-the-people tour in remote areas of the Sultanate.

"I have information that the majority of Omanis are aged under 15 years. This means that the youth are coming... There are at least 400,000 jobs occupied by expatriates and are awaiting the Omani youth."

Qabus, 48, rejected excuses by Omanis that they could not find jobs because they did not have academic qualifications. He said jobs in farming and other traditional sectors that were the main living source before oil was discovered did not require such qualifications.

"Educational qualifications are not the ultimate goal. It is training and rehabilitation. There are certain types of work that do not need many qualifications. Farms and other facilities inherited from our ancestors are still there and testify for their capabilities," he said.

"Those who make such excuses are lazy. Only lazy people make excuses. We all must not listen to these people and we all must say to them: no."

Qabus said his government was chalking out an intensive training programme for Omanis so they will replace foreigners, who began to stream in when oil was discovered around 20 years ago.

Oman produces around 800,000 barrels per day of oil and its crude reserves exceed 4.5 billion barrels. It has used the oil wealth, which fetches it more than three billion dollars a year, to build a modern infrastructure and turn its barren territory and mudhouses into a green spot and large buildings.

Other oil-rich Gulf states depend heavily on foreign labour given a large shortage in skilled native labour. But they have joined Oman in launching campaigns to lessen reliance on expatriates, which they believe have become a threat to their security and conservative tribal society.

Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have the biggest percentage of foreigners, who have become a majority. But the Iraq invasion has prompted measures in Kuwait to turn its local population into a majority by expelling some expatriates and restricting entry visas.

"The Omanisation programme is moving ahead," Qabus told his citizens, who flanked him as he sat on the ground. "Shaykhs and dignitaries are asked to urge the youth to engage in work. This encouragement is their most important duty."

Qabus, who joined other regional states in creating a consultative body after the Gulf war, said he was planning to revise representation in the council according to the size of population in the provinces.

"Representation in the consultative council will be proportionate with the population density. The distribution will be fair," he said.

Saudi Arabia

Clinton Briefs Fahd Over Phone on Talks With al-Asad

LD1901102794 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0910 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Riyadh, 19 Jan (SPA)—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud received a telephone call last night from His Excellency President Bill Clinton, the U.S. President, who briefed the custodian of the two holy mosques, may God protect him, on his talks with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, in Geneva recently.

U.S. Commerce Secretary, Delegation Arrive for Visit

LD1501173694 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1515 GMT 15 Jan 94

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 15 Jan—His Excellency Mr. Ronald Brown, the U.S. secretary of commerce, and his delegation, arrived today in Riyadh on a visit to the Kingdom.

His excellency was welcomed at King Khalid International Airport by his excellency Dr. Sulayman al-Salim, the minister of trade. [passage omitted]

On his arrival, his excellency the secretary of commerce made a statement in which his excellency expressed his pleasure at visiting the Kingdom which is the first leg in a one-week tour in the Middle East.

Here follows the statement of his excellency, the secretary of commerce:

[Brown] [passage omitted] This week, I will also be visiting Jordan, Egypt, Israel, and the West Bank. My mission is aimed at encouraging economic development and commercial relations which will help stability in this region, create economic variety in the Arab Gulf, expand commercial relations between the United States and Saudi Arabia, and consolidate the peace process. [passage omitted]

The economic strategy of the Clinton administration is based on fledgling and changing markets such as in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries. We believe that these markets have got a huge potential to develop in coming years. Moreover, it is important to reach a wide-ranging shift toward a free trade policy between the United States and GCC countries, whose officials I will meet tomorrow.

There are a number of U.S. companies eager to conclude partnerships with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries, while these Gulf countries are aspiring to diversify their economies, which are based on oil. The proceedings of dialogue I am to open tomorrow will focus upon reducing the number of barriers to build more sound commercial relations between our two countries, reducing tariff barriers and expanding protection of cultural heritage. All these are naturally among our priorities.

During my meetings with the Saudi leadership, I am hoping to have talks that will strengthen commercial relations between the United States and Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted] Thank you, and I am now ready to hear your questions. [end Brown]

In reply to a question aircraft which Saudi Arabia was intending to buy from the United States, his excellency Mr. Ronald Brown indicated that during his visit to the Kingdom last May his excellency spent a long time discussing with Saudi Government officials commercial interests between the two countries. His excellency said: "One of the issues raised then was the purchase of aircraft and this issue is going to be included in our agenda during this visit." His excellency added that his excellency was happy with the progress achieved on the subject. [passage omitted]

His excellency further said: "We see an enlargement of participation in this agreement and in view of our close relationship and strong economic and commercial links with Saudi Arabia, we see the latter joining in." His excellency indicated that specific questions were raised concerning the Kingdom and his excellency expressed his confidence that these questions would be settled. His excellency added: "These are some of the items we will discuss during my visit." [passage omitted]

His excellency also described his previous visit to Saudi Arabia as great and said: "This is why I returned to visit the Kingdom after only eight months. This highlights the importance the United States attaches to its relations with Saudi Arabia." [passage omitted]

His excellency further said: "I believe progress has been achieved as regards our trade relations. This has been done with the promotion of joint solidarity projects, U.S. investments, and improvement of trade relations between the two countries."

In reply to a question on where U.S. companies were going to win procurement bids for expansion and development of telecommunications networks in the Kingdom, his excellency pointed out that his excellency would follow up these matters with his excellency the Saudi minister of telegraph, posts, and telephone and his excellency the Saudi minister of commerce. His excellency added: "Naturally, we would be pleased if U.S. companies were successful in bids for those procurements."

King Fahd Receives Germany's Rexrodt

LD1801150194 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1355 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 18 Jan—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, may God protect him, received in his office at the Royal

Court at al-Yamamah Palace this afternoon German Economy Minister His Excellency Dr. Guenter Rexrodt, and the delegation accompanying him. [passage omitted]

Ethiopia's Seyoum on Regional Issues, Cooperation

LD1801180294 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] His Excellency the Ethiopian foreign minister, Mesfin Seyoum, has said he conveyed a message to the Servant of the Two Holy Places, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud. The message was from the prime minister of the Ethiopian transitional government, Zenawi Meles. Seyoum presented the message when he was received by Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general on 15 January. In a statement to SPA before leaving Jeddah today, Seyoum indicated that he discussed with Saudi officials a number of issues relating to the Horn of Africa, the Red Sea, and the Middle East, adding that the two countries had similar views on everything concerning this region. He added that he held a series of meetings with officials from the chambers of commerce in Riyadh and Jeddah as well as businessmen with a view to bolstering economic relations and commercial exchanges between the two countries.

United Arab Emirates

French Defense Minister Departs Following Short Visit

JN1701122794 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0645 GMT 17 Jan 94

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 Jan (WAKH)—French Defense Minister Francois Leotard left Abu Dhabi this morning following a short visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

He was seen off by Staff Major General pilot Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, the UAE chief of staff, senior Armed Forces officers, and the French ambassador to the UAE.

Yemen

'Document of Pledge and Accord' Signed in Aden

JN1801163694 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] In an atmosphere of happiness and optimism, the document of pledge and accord to build the new Yemeni state was initialed this morning. The signing took place during the final session of the Political Forces Dialogue Committee held in Aden, the economic and trade capital, this morning.

Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas opened the session with a speech in which he noted that, with God's help and thanks to the efforts of the participants, the committee drafted the document of pledge and agreement. He expressed hope that— with the efforts of all honest parties in all the Yemeni arena—this agreement will be embodied and translated on the ground.

Dialogue Committee Issues Closing Statement

JN1801211994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1810 GMT 18 Jan 94

["Text" of statement issued at the end of the meetings of the Yemeni Political Forces Dialogue Committee in Aden on 18 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. A final statement issued by the political forces dialogue committee on 18 January 1994:

Praise be to God with whose blessings good deeds are done, guidance is obtained, and success is achieved. May God's peace be upon the prophet of love, brotherhood, and peace and upon his family, companions, and followers.

O patient Yemeni people: The greatness of any people is best seen in times of hardship and their cultural traits do not stand out except when the approach they follow to remedy crises and the methods they use to address and overcome their effects are known.

In light of the political crisis the country is experiencing, and when even the most optimistic people were waiting for the moment when the situation would explode, the Yemeni people were wagering on their patience, endurance, and ability to overcome and end the ordeal. After relying on God, the Yemeni people pinned all their hopes on the dialogue going on between their political forces.

O great people: The wisdom of your sons who are holding the dialogue was confirmed and the wager of your enemies was defeated. God has granted success to your political forces in the battle of the greater jihad, the jihad of psyches. Reason has had the upper hand in the dialogue, whims were defeated, and everybody reached an agreement in which the devil alone was the loser and the people were the winner. This agreement is in the public interest. Its essence and spirit is the building of a just, democratic society that believes in progress and in which there is no place for injustice, oppression, violence, despotism, monopolies of power and wealth, violations of the constitution and laws, or violations of human rights.

The dialogue committee has reached full agreement on a historic document that represents an important juncture in the march of the Yemeni struggle for freedom and progress. This document strongly bolsters a wise Yemeni approach based on rejection of all forms of violence and adoption of dialogue as the only way to settle differences.

The Document of Pledge and Agreement covers the overall military, security, and political foundations that allow for the establishment of a modern state with institutions capable of development and of achieving prosperity and addressing the people's concerns and problems. This state is also founded on democracy, the peaceful rotation of power, and the broad participation of the society on the basis of financial and administrative decentralization.

O great Yemeni people: Experience has taught us that violence only breeds destruction and that any concession we make at the dialogue table is stronger and greater than any gains made over a heap of bodies and a river of blood.

While declaring the points it had reached and which were agreed on by all the political forces taking part in the dialogue, the Political Forces Dialogue Committee thanks all brothers and friends who have shown sympathy toward Yemen's crisis and expressed willingness to cooperate. The dialogue committee also expresses its appreciation for the Yemeni people, who have been observing its steps and who have supported its work through their popular conferences. The dialogue committee urges every Yemeni, who loves his country and cares for his future and the future of his children, to support the committee's decisions and to cooperate to achieve those decisions. Each Yemeni should also bravely side with the well-intentioned forces that uphold justice, right, and public interests. Each Yemeni should firmly oppose—by adopting all democratic methods—all forces of evil harboring bad intentions for Yemen.

The dialogue committee further urges all the sons of the Yemeni people, civilian and military, to spread a spirit of love, brotherhood, and tolerance. It also urges them to support the agreement it has reached and to reject any attempt to use any method, be it political or military, that aims at undermining or departing from the agreement.

While declaring its finalization of this historic document by the second deadline it had announced, the dialogue committee will continue to make preparations for a meeting between political leaders during which the national document shall be baptized. During this meeting agreement will be reached on guarantees to implement the accord and an announcement will be made on the beginning of its implementation and the Yemeni people's transition to a stage of construction and progress under the canopy of love, peace, unity, democracy, a state of law and order, and respect for human rights.

We ask God for success and guidance. We also pray to him not to lead us astray after he has given us guidance.

[Signed] The Political Forces Dialogue Committee

[Dated] 18 January 1994

'Document of Pledge and Accord' Outlined

JN1901101694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] The Political Forces Dialogue Committee concluded its meetings in Aden, the economic and trade capital, yesterday by endorsing the Document of Pledge and Accord to build the new Yemeni state. The document was reached through an agreement among all parties participating in the dialogue.

This national document covers the following important issues covered by the political forces dialogue:

The accused in disorder cases:

The document calls for firm measures to arrest fugitive suspects in cases of assassinations, assassination attempts, and highway robberies, and in other security violations. It also calls for immediate legal and public trials for those arrested in order to implement legal measures and penalties against the accused without delay. The Political Forces Dialogue Committee opposes any leniency or hesitation on the part of the competent forces to take firm legal measures against those involved in terrorist acts. It affirms the need to expeditiously issue the regulations governing the carrying of firearms, ensure compliance with them, and review the current law to make it tougher in order to limit arms carrying, arms proliferation, and arms trade, and to make sure that there are no camps or centers for terrorist training as well as to take the appropriate measures regarding this.

Regarding the security and military aspect, the document affirms the need to remove all checkpoints inside and outside the cities, whether these checkpoints are affiliated with the Interior Ministry, Defense Ministry, or both ministries. The Interior Ministry will be responsible for defining the places in which security interests require security points, provided that it cooperates with the Defense Ministry to define the joint military and security checkpoints.

The document also calls for general reconciliation among tribes to stop Yemeni bloodshed. In accordance with this reconciliation, no acts of revenge will be taken, and anyone who takes revenge will be considered an outlaw. The competent state organizations will take firm legal measures against these outlaws and will define the cases—which would prompt revenge—which took place before the date on which the declaration was issued. The military units—which were stationed in the outskirts in some areas in the Governorates of Ta'izz, Lahij, Abyan, Shabwah, al-Bayda', and Ma'rib—will be redeployed in areas agreed upon by a technical committee from the Armed Forces. No military patrols will be deployed in the cities, or along the roads. The police will be in charge of this in accordance with security requirements. An intelligence organ will be established in accordance with the law that will define its structure, tasks, and powers to safeguard national sovereignty. The document calls for discussing the methods to end the unofficial armed presence, including the distribution of weapons to citizens under any pretext. Any such act will be considered a crime.

It calls for reorganizing the Ministry of Interior in a way that the various security units, including the central security forces, will be incorporated into it, so the ministry will have control over them.

It calls for the withdrawal of the armed forces from the cities, and their redeployment during a period not exceeding two months in accordance with a consolidated central plan to reposition, merge, and reorganize them.

It also calls for a commitment not to move any military units or troop or equipment reinforcements, to suspend the implementation of military exercises, and to confine the military police's role to that of keeping the security and promoting the discipline of military units. The military police will be prevented from carrying out any activity or patrols which conflict with the duties of the public security. Any manifestation, or measure, or conduct which would suggest distinction or preferential treatment among the armed forces personnel will be banned.

The officers and soldiers of the armed forces will be prevented from intervening in the affairs of both citizens and local authorities. They will also be prevented from carrying out any activity in their workplaces that would conflict with the functions of the judicial and executive authorities.

Recruiting, arming, and mobilizing military units, militias, the Border Guard, the Popular Guard, and similar units will be halted, and the units recently formed will be disbanded.

With regard to assessing the relationship and defining the powers, the document stresses the need to embody the Constitution, laws, and by-laws in practice; to spell out the tasks and powers the Presidential Council, its chairman, and its vice chairman will enjoy in the course of the performance of their constitutional duties; and to reconsider the duties and prerogatives of the Presidential Council Office accordingly.

The disbursement of public funds outside the purposes defined in the general budget's current expenditure and development expenditure will be banned. There is a need to abide by the powers defined for disbursement. The powers regarding disbursement for senior state officials will be defined.

With regard to the bases of building a modern state and its bodies, the dialogue committee affirmed that the major task lies in building the state and repairing the problems from the previous phase. Our experience since the formation of the Republic of Yemen on 22 May 1990 has shown that the way of running state affairs has been an obstacle to the merger of the two former regimes and to building a united state.

With regard to the organization of the central authority, the document explained the following: The House of Representatives is the legislative body of the Republic of Yemen, and it is elected by the people through secret, free, and direct balloting. The Constitution defines the House's powers, duties, terms of membership, and its means of nomination and voting.

The Consultative Council comprises an equal number of members representing the local administrative units. These members are elected by the governorates' councils. The Constitution defines the number of members from each and every administrative unit, membership terms, and the method of nomination and voting.

The document also defines the tasks and powers of the Consultative Council. The document states that the presidency of the state constitutes the sovereign power of the state and is composed of the Presidential Council, which includes five members elected by the House of Representatives and the Consultative Council together. The House of Representatives elects a president and a vice president from among its members. The term of membership of the Presidential Council has been set to two electoral terms. The document also identifies the powers and tasks of the Council as set by the Constitution. It also defines the tasks and powers of the president, the vice president, the Presidential Council members, the government, and the judiciary.

With regard to local government, the document affirms that it must be based on a new administrative configuration of the Republic of Yemen, revoking the existing administrative structures and units through which the country will be fully merged and all manifestations of partition will disappear.

The document of pledge and accord also defines the powers of local administration, which shall be based on direct and free elections. It also defines financial, administrative, economic, social, security, educational, health, and social services.

In the field of rebuilding and reorganizing the armed forces, the document considers the reorganizing of the armed forces one of the major issues. The armed forces shall be affiliated directly with the government. No side shall be authorized to form a military or semi-military force. A general plan shall be prepared to rehabilitate, merge, and reorganize the armed forces.

In the field of education, the document stresses the need to unify school curriculum. The document urges the formation of a higher national security council and the identification of its tasks. The document also stresses the need to reactivate the central audit and control bureau as a body that is independent of the executive power. It shall be directly affiliated with the legislature.

In the field of economy and financial organization, the document sets a number of steps aimed at abiding by a general state budget that defines expenditures and revenues and nourishes the economy in all fields.

The document urges abidance by the current Constitution until it is amended, providing that an action shall be carried out to make constitutional amendments within a period of three months and not exceeding five months.

The document stresses the need to give the government all powers and not to interfere in its work in order to enable it to execute its tasks. The government shall set timetables to accomplish the set tasks within a month.

The Political Forces Dialogue Committee shall supervise and follow up the implementation of the decisions stipulated by the Document of Pledge and Accord between the parties to the dialogue of political forces to establish a modern Yemeni state.

Regarding the necessary security arrangements and conditions to sign the agreement and begin to implement it, the document stipulates that a committee should be formed comprising the parties to the dialogue. The committee shall make the necessary arrangements to provide the required security conditions to sign the agreement and establish guarantees for the beginning of implementation, in coordination with the president and [word indistinct]. A date shall be set in light of the arrangements that will be reached.

Afterward, the participants to the dialogue of the political forces signed the Document of Pledge and Agreement.

The meeting also endorsed the formation of a committee to follow up on the implementation of the seventh paragraph of the pledge document on making preparations and providing security conditions to endorse the document in a final manner and to specify the guarantees for its implementation. The committee comprises the following brothers:

Shaykh Sinan Abu-Luhum; Brigadier General Mujahid Abu-Shawarib; 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Anisi; Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani; Jarallah 'Umar; and [first name indistinct] Ahmad Jabir, the committee's rapporteur.

Armed Clash Reportedly Follows Brigades' Move

PM1801163694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Jan 94 pp1, 4

[Reports by 'Abdallah Hammudah in Aden and Hammud Munsir in Sanaa: "Yemeni Exchange of Fire on Former Borders"]

[Excerpt] Political sources in more than one Yemeni party have revealed that there was an exchange of fire from light and medium weapons two days ago between southern and northern military units on the old partition borders in the governorates of Shabwah and Ma'rib.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the sources confirmed that the exchange of fire was stopped within hours to avoid an eruption of the situation because of the political crisis which has prevailed in Yemen for about five months.

It is worth noting that these clashes occurred after the arrival of three Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] brigades in Shabwah from other governorates including Hadramaut. They are the 30th Brigade, the Taysir Brigade, and the 'Abbas Brigade. They tightened control of the oil area which was a joint area between the two Yemens before unity. It was considered "a joint investment zone." Oil prospecting and production rights there were given to the French company Total which announced the discovery of an oilfield last October after the exploratory drilling of three wells.

While General People's Congress [GPC] sources accused the YSP of moving these brigades, the YSP claimed that the GPC had moved several units from al-Hudaydah to Ta'izz near Aden and reinforced its units in the governorates of Ibb and al-Bayda'. [passage omitted]

Military Committee Denies Reports on Military Moves

JN1901094794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] The military committee in charge of canceling changes in the military situation, led by brother Colonel 'Ali Muhammad Salah, deputy chief of staff for operations, resumed its field activity [words indistinct] on the units and the various military situations throughout the republic. Within the framework of its activity, the committee today visited some military units in the [words indistinct] and al-Bayda' Governorates. The committee [words indistinct] to remove all military changes that took place in the recent period. The committee was reassured of the return of the military situation in these two governorates to what it was before the political crisis emerged.

The head and members of the committee met with the officers, the noncommissioned officers, and soldiers in the brigade [words indistinct]. Colonel Muhammad Salah delivered a short speech in which he expressed the need for the Armed Forces to remain neutral, keep away from conflicts and divisions, protect the homeland, its sovereignty and unity, as well as all our people's gains.

Moreover, during the meeting, a number of committee members and the commander of the al-'Amaliqah Brigade delivered speeches in which they stressed that the military manifestations which had been established have now been cancelled. Moreover, they stressed that the sons of the Yemeni Armed Forces will continue to be one rank without any discrimination or divisions throughout the Yemeni republic.

The members of the military committee, commanders of the military units, and the governor of al-Bayda' Governorate held an expanded meeting. During the meeting, the military committee presented a briefing of its activities during the visit in terms of returning the units to their pre-crisis locations and removing the resulting tension.

For his part, the governor of al-Bayda' Governorate stressed the need to reinforce confidence among the military commanders in manner that provides a peaceful atmosphere to ensure the unity of the Armed Forces.

The military committee yesterday met with the fighters in the units stationed in Dhamar and [word indistinct] Governorates. The head of the committee delivered a speech addressing the fighters in which he praised their high spirit of responsibility. A responsible source in the military committee denied reports by some newspapers that there are military moves and mobilizations within some units in parts of the republic. The source reaffirmed that during the past period, the committee was able to put an end to every change in the Armed Forces' situation and that it is continuing its relentless efforts to prevent any new military moves or changes.

Al-Bid Addresses YSP Secretaries Meeting

JN1801170594 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Summary From Poor Reception] The secretaries of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] organizations in the Yemeni governorates held an expanded meeting yesterday evening. Brother 'Ali Salim al- Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the YSP, and other party officials attended the meeting. The conferees discussed and reviewed the current political developments in Yemen.

Brother al-Bid asserted that safeguarding Yemeni unity and democracy is a major task. He pointed out that the YSP will proceed on the path of unity and democracy and of progress for the Yemeni people. He urged the YSP organizations to show vigilance and responsibility toward the fate of the people and the homeland.

Al-Bid also expressed the YSP's conviction that the national dialogue can achieve its objectives. He voiced confidence that the Yemeni people can distinguish between one thing and another and know where their interest lies. Al-Bid added that our people are looking forward to building a modern state.

Parliament Speaker Reaffirms Commitment to Unity

PM1901111094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jan 94 pp 1, 4

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives and chairman of the Yemeni Reform Grouping Higher Committee, by Hammud Munsir in Sanaa and 'Abdallah Hammudah and Lutfi Shatarah in Aden; date not given: "Al-Ahmar: We Accept What They Impose for the Sake of Unity"]

[Excerpts] Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives and chairman of the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG] Higher Committee, has stated that "unity is dear to us and we have paid the price for it but now they want an additional price." He was referring to the demands included in the 18 points submitted by the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP]. He added: "They are imposing things on us; we accept, for the sake of unity."

This came in an exclusive interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT at Shaykh al-Ahmar's home in Sanaa in which he said: "Our view is that everything possible has been done but there should be agreement on the constitutional amendments." He also said that the "points are acceptable (in principle), go in stages, and could be carried out by the government." He added: "Out of our concern for unity we accept everything they impose, which is a bitter pill to swallow."

Political sources in Aden have confirmed that Yemeni Planning and Development Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani has resigned in protest against an order issued by Prime Minister Eng. Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas calling for discontinuation of the Yemeni population and establishments census. Sources close to al-Iryani said that he considered that decision to favor partition and division.

Out of his concern for Yemeni unity, Shaykh al-Ahmar is making efforts as speaker of the House of Representatives which is the only unity institution still functioning regularly. He stressed that he is by no means acting as YRG leader. He said: "Responsibility has made it incumbent upon us to be passive and not to say what we believe should be said."

In reply to a question about views expressed by political observers to the effect that the YSP is exerting pressure "for a stable state system but is working for a continuation of the state of unrest and anticipation for as long as possible to get as many concessions as possible," Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar said: "Why should we preoccupy ourselves with analysis and speculation? The situation is clear. That is the position of the (YSP) Political Bureau and Central Committee."

Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar emphasized that the decision about the state system and whether it should be a parliamentary or presidential system "should be a part of the constitutional amendments." He added: "We have our own views regarding the local councils system which is in harmony with the current Constitution, and regarding financial and administrative decentralization."

On the divisive military movements within the state of unity, the speaker said: "There have been movements which nobody can deny such as the transfer of some units from the eastern areas to Shabwah, but there has been no confirmation of other things and we hve not heard about them." He reaffirmed the importance of preserving unity. He said: "Despite everything, we are prepared to come to some understanding with them (the

YSP) for the sake of unity, which was a precious achievement, dear to us. We are prepared to offer many times the sacrifices we have already made for its sake."

Shaykh al-Ahmar denied that the YRG had "any part in causing the crisis."

He stressed that "there are no differences within the presidency of the House of Representatives. There can be no doubt about that. We all work together" because "the House of Representatives is the only unity body still functioning, albeit with little output."

He said that "the Socialist deputies attend and we have had no disagreement with them on any measures, because we have not reached the point of decision on the measures which should be taken and to which the House of Representatives is entitled." He said that "the House of Representatives, like other state institutions, has been affected by the crisis but we are still holding together and there has been no dispute within the House." [passage omitted]

It should be noted that the prime minister and the ministers of defense, oil, transport, and housing, and the deputy prime minister for manpower are all in Aden and do not discharge their ministerial duties or take part in the cabinet meetings in Sanaa. The cabinet holds regular meetings under the chairmanship of Dr. Hasan Makki, member of the General Committee (Political Bureau) of the General People's Congress [GPC] and first deputy prime minister.

In reply to a question about the absence of these ministers and whether there is justification for withdrawing confidence from the cabinet and forming a new cabinet, a YSP source said that the reason they have stayed away from Sanaa was the discovery of a plan for their assassination. He added that senior state officials knew that. [passage omitted]

Saudi Border Talks Continue in Sanaa

JN1901083894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] The Yemeni-Saudi joint experts committee on borders held the second meeting of its seventh session in Sanaa this evening. The seventh session began yesterday evening under brother Ja'far Sa'id Ba-Salih, deputy director of the Presidential Council Office and head of our country's side, and Dr. Matlab al-Nafisah, head of the experts branch at the Saudi Council of Ministers, who heads the fraternal Saudi side on the committee.

The committee resumed discussion of the viewpoints and proposals submitted by the two sides. The committee began its seventh session at 1900 yesterday evening, Monday.

The Yemeni News Agency, SABA', has learned that a cordial and fraternal atmosphere permeates this session, reflecting the solid fraternal relations between the two people.

Minister on Terrorist Training, Financing

NC1901095294 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 15 Jan 94 p 5

[Interview with Interior Minister Muhammad Salim al-Mutawakkil, referred to as Brigadier General Yahya al-Mutawakkil, by AL-AHRAM correspondent Ahmad Musa in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Musa] Interrogation of the terrorists suspected of attempting to assassinate Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has proved that they were trained in Yemen with other individuals who were passing through on their way back from Afghanistan. They also got their instructions from there. What do you think of these confessions?

[Al-Mutawakkil] With regard to reports of Yemen's connection with events inside Egypt, we have often pointed out that Yemen will never become a stage for anti-Egyptian activity. We have contacted the Egyptian Government to emphasize this. We are willing to ban the entry of Egyptians or other nationals who have been convicted of such crimes or have any links with them. We are willing to increase coordination with Egypt on this. We have said that we will welcome any Egyptian delegation sent to Yemen to examine reports of the existence of training camps. We will give the Egyptian security services the opportunity to ascertain the facts for themselves.

[Musa] Some parties are planning meticulously for these organizations. They enter no country under their real names, something that worries all the concerned security services. In Yemen, they use noms de guerre and are trained inside apartments, not at outdoor camps.

[Al-Mutawakkil] Nothing like this has been uncovered. No camps and no such individuals were found. We have coordinated efforts with the Egyptian Interior Ministry and are willing to receive Egyptian security officials. We will examine what information they have and cooperate with them for the good of our two countries. The relevant departments are kept informed of our contracts with Egyptian teachers. We will deport any individuals staying in Yemen as workers if they are accused of anything.

[Musa] Suppose the Egyptian security services can prove that some terrorists are still inside Yemen, will they be handed over to Egypt for trial?

[Al-Mutawakkil] Extradition of individuals is governed by pertinent agreements. There are no such agreements between our two countries. But we will adopt the necessary measures to prevent our country from becoming a center for such activities.

[Musa] Is there no intention of concluding new agreements to govern this issue, which is vital to our countries' stability?

[Al-Mutawakkil] I discussed ways of exchanging visits and data with Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi on the sidelines of the Arab interior ministers conference in Tunis last week. The aim is to control the movement of suspect individuals.

[Musa] When these individuals arrive from Afghanistan, training is carried out inside apartments in Yemen. What is your comment on these reports?

[Al-Mutawakkil] Yes, there were such reports. We asked the Egyptian security authorities to specify where these apartments are and give us information on them in addition to photographs of the individuals suspected of such crimes. Our aim is to coordinate the work of the security forces in our two countries and to be of assistance.

[Musa] Yemen has recently been the scene of a series of explosions and assassination attempts carried out by groups of the al-Jihad Organization "The Returnees from Afghanistan." How did the security service identify the culprits and unravel the circumstances of various cases?

[Al-Mutawakkil] Our information indicated that the Yemenis, who had travelled to Afghanistan, established an organization known as "al-Jihad." This organization is financed by businessman Usamah Bin-Ladin. Investigations involving the defendants in Aden, Lahij, Hadhramaut, and Sanaa showed that they are responsible for the terrorist operations against the hotels and for the assassination attempts against personalities. The investigations have also proven that the perpetrators do belong to the al-Jihad Organization and receive instructions from one side. We are currently taking the necessary measures to refer them to court.

[Musa] How many will be charged?

[Al-Mutawakkil] Some 96 terrorists will stand trial. Some 36 are in prison and the other 60 are fugitives.

[Musa] Do you intend to amend your laws to confront terrorist crimes, which are alien to your society?

[Al-Mutawakkil] I have submitted a draft for a new law to confront terrorism and carrying arms, because Yemeni law allows people to carry arms. This is a serious phenomenon and it's one of the factors behind the wave of violence and terrorism. The Yemeni citizen can carry licensed arms. He can also own arms without a license.

[Musa] How many weapons have been seized through your ministry?

[Al-Mutawakkil] We can only seize unlicensed weapons when they are found in large quantities. In the most recent case, we seized 100 automatic rifles and machine guns. But personal weapons are allowed by law.

[Musa] The Yemeni security service has thwarted several attempts to smuggle weapons. What are the details of these attempts?

[Al-Mutawakkil] We have indeed thwarted many attempts to smuggle weapons through coastal borders. We have a good market for arms trade. The arms are being sold publicly. We can only curb this dreadful trade through new laws, which will be issued. We aborted an attempt to unload an arms shipment from a foreign ship heading from the north to the south.

[Musa] Your Excellency, we know you are pursuing defendant Usamah Bin-Ladin for his involvement in the terrorist operations in your country. What are the latest developments in his case?

[Al-Mutawakkil] We have asked Interpol to hunt down Bin-Ladin and other fugitives and bring them to Yemen on charges of involvement in various explosions.

[Musa] Do you have any proof of foreign financing?

[Al-Mutawakkil] We are still looking for all the main sources financing terrorism, although all the signs are that Usamah Bin- Ladin is the principal financier.

[In a note at the bottom of the report, AL-AHRAM states the following: "Note: A ranking Yemeni source has revealed that the investigation and information confirm that Usamah Bin-Ladin has earmarked huge funds to finance the activities of terrorist trends in some Arab countries, particularly Egypt, Tunis, Algeria, and Yemen. These funds amount to well over .5 billion pounds. He is also allocating between $30,000 and $50,000 for any operation carried out in these countries."]

Salih Confers With U.S. Ambassador in Ta'izz

JN1701211294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Jan 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, received at the Presidential Palace in Ta'izz today Arthur Hughes, the U.S. ambassador to our country.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations as well as the issues and developments of interest to both friendly countries. They also reviewed developments in our country and the U.S. position on them in light of the U.S. support for our country's unity and democracy.

The U.S. ambassador reaffirmed that the United States is interested in our country's circumvention of the current political crisis through peaceful dialogue and by renouncing violence in a way that will entrench the march of unity and democracy in Yemen. He pointed out that a unified Yemen is an important element in regional security and stability and in the world peace march.

The brother chairman of the Presidential Council expressed his appreciation for the positive U.S. position on developments in our country. He lauded the level of Yemeni-U.S. relations, adding that they are relations of friendship established on a firm basis of cooperation and common interests. He voiced confidence that our country will get through the current circumstances and challenges by constructive and responsible dialogue in a way that will safeguard the march of unity, democracy, and peace in Yemen.

Foreign Minister brother Muhammad Salim Basindwah attended the meeting.

Saddam Delivers Gulf War Anniversary Speech

JN1701094894 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1803 GTM

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn marking the third anniversary of the Mother of Battles in Baghdad on 16 January—live or recorded]

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Great people, valiant men of our valiant Armed Forces, sons of our glorious Arab nation, friends throughout the world: Peace be upon you.

Arabs, led by the Iraqis, have, since the formation of the first human civilization on earth, looked at the universe and creation as a whole. They have examined both comprehensively and have discharged their task with responsibility and honor. If Arabs are preoccupied with any part the universe or creation, it is in the interest of a more comprehensive outlook and responsibility. Arabs have never separated life and their outlook on creation and the universe from any of their fundamental rules. They never became obsessed with the part at the expense of the whole. In none of their awakenings have they relied on the material to the exclusion of the spirit.

Indeed, Arabs have never achieved any state of awakening based on the material laws of life. Whenever any of the Arabs swung to the material side, that period was labeled an age of degradation or intellectual backwardness. In any case, this has never been a characteristic in which Arabs have taken pride. They have never taken such a state of affairs as their ideal or set it as an example. Nor did they call on others to follow that route. From this perspective and stand, Arabs played the role they set for themselves or the role chosen for them by God. Every elevation of the intellect and duty of principle was inspired by a universal outlook in which there was a balance between the spiritual and the material, with the spiritual indeed taking precedence over the material. The legitimacy and intrinsic value of all material things is reinforced by the degree to which it is tempered with spiritualism. On such foundations of the spirit and thought was built the historical, psychological, and ideological edifice and our perspective on things. With the help of the God of heaven and earth, and his wise choice, Arabs were chosen as messengers of humanity to humanity and their land the cradle of prophets, bolstering the role of the Arab nation as the gateway for the world's first civilization.

When idelogy, values, and attitudes are shaped by this concept of spirit as an attitude and civilization as an entity, and when people on this blessed earth play their role according to what crystallizes in their thoughts and accumulates in their consciences then, the people of this earth will be the first to understand the relationship between what is material and what is spiritual. They will also understand the balance between this relationship and the priority given to spiritual elements in the course of life. It is necessary to understand the detrimental effect of material objects on life when they get the upper hand.

We must always be extremely aware of the essential difference between those who drown in spirit and those who drown in other considerations throughout history. Those who drown in the latter will appear dry or possibly hollow and will repeat the past. Consequently, they will be tossed about by the wind and the laws of life, like a dry bush that cannot resist the winds or extend its roots deep into the earth to grow and reach the pure air and the useful sun.

Everyone should realize the difference between the world of considerations and spirit, from which man can proceed to establish a civilization in which the laws of life prosper, in which man corrects himself, and in which the laws of the period develop in the areas of culture, industry, agriculture, art, and science in light of justice, fairness, and what satisfies God and the people; and the mere adoption of what has been done by others without playing any role in the development of what has been intrusted to man to establish his civilization by absorbing the accepted laws of his age and interacting with what requires interaction, and creating what should be created.

All this comes after seeking to win the satisfaction of Almighty God, to achieve man's happiness, and not to deprive him of the foundation of his personality in terms of position, decision, thought, and behavior in light of his history and heritage in the deepest and most comprehensive way. He should also create the values of the society of that age and not imitate what contradicts the pan-Arab and national characteristics, but imitate that society which has a memorable, influential role in human life. While this society affects other nations, it will keep an open mind to the experiences of those nations with which it interacts. The actions of this society will be based on its past intellectual, cultural, and historical bases and its present ideology and creativity.

Breaking away from what is spiritual and moving toward what is material on the pretext that this is the law of this age will also lead to one's drowning in what is material. Instead of being the pillar used by spiritual laws as an influencial means befitting its time to flourish under suitable civilized circumstances when possible, according to the laws of this age, and to balance life and help straighten it up on the basis of spiritual laws, this trend will lead to to one's drowning in materialism if it is used as an absolute basis in thought and action. For it will then becomes an end rather than a means which, if used properly, will make life and the spirit progress, and will realize man's happiness through self-satisfaction that is immersed in faith and through the others' perception of how to tackle the basics of the laws of life and man's relationship with his fellow man.

It has been historically proven that Arabs have been the pioneers in the realm of the spirit, that the realm of the spirit has chosen Arabs to introduce itself to the world, and that Arabs were the ones who introduced the world to the realm of the spirit. They constituted the first human civilization which shows that they were the first to create the basics of what elevates life to a level that distinguishes man. The edge Arabs enjoyed over others in their approach to the realm of the spirit becomes evident in their ability to put things within their proper perspective, be it when they tackle the material world, or through their approach and evaluation of what is or os not ethical, what is or is not just, particularly when it concerns their present and future, as well as their past and all the other human affairs. To clarify things, we say: Can the United States, or India, for example, be taken as a standard of measure in the modern world for what is advanced or not, or of what is more advanced? Why is it that the United State, Japan, France, or Britain continue to be viewed as the basic standards of measure by all those who had an edge in production and invention in the field of technology in a general manner, and on the basis of the general criteria of a phase such as the one we have mentioned?

We are certain that the basis for this is that they were pioneers in the field of invention which gave them an edge in the field of production.

Even on the basis of this incomplete example from life, those who contemplate life and mankind in accordance with a sound concept would realize and understand the pioneering role Arabs have played for themselves and others.

Invention, usage of an invention, and accumulated experiences, are considered a criteria by which others will judge any stage. Such a stage may be long or short. Why aren't Arabs, including Iraqis, entitled to clearly view things in terms of their sources which have a pure spirit, civilization, ideology, and everything else that measures what is spiritual and what is materialistic, favoring what is spiritual over what materialistic whenever it conflicts with and obstructs the prosperity of what is spiritual?

This clearly shows that one who controls the movement in the materialistic world is not suitable as an example, or as a model, or as a judge of others unless he balances his approach and behavior according to what is spiritual, just, and fair, and respects the considerations of other nations, and unless he recalls the requirements of a fair position and not ambitions or egomania.

From these concepts, and from an understanding of divine wisdom we can see that mankind has not singled out any prophet, messenger, heavenly or unheavenly religion. Therefore, in Amman, in February 1990 we had to face those who called both covertly and overtly for surrendering to the U.S. unilateral political control of the world, after the collapse of the Soviet Union. We wondered whether the United States would act in a responsible and wise manner toward the world, or whether it would fall into the abyss of rashness. Thus, it would not control the world, but would fall from the peak after losing much of its means to perpetuate its brute force.

Today, this is the world of which we are a part, and you are also part of it. With a simple look, anyone will see a blazing world in which the most sacred of sanctities are violated, and also the highest values of peoples and nations, states, and international relations are violated. Moreover, he will see blood flowing like rivers, and injustice climbing up to the world of evil so that it is almost drowned in it, and hunger overwhelming a great portion of world peoples. He will also see that the United States, which is practicing hegemony from its apex, has quickly found itself—thanks to the desire for domination and its accompanying mistakes and also due to others' resistance—displaced from the apex of the material world and the world of domination and unilateral control which it wished for in the new world order. The United States has even begun to decline, even according to the standards of supremacy over others in the United States' own world.

Every reasonable and mature person has realized that the world order called for by the former president of the United States is a call to realize an unruly imperialist wish to give the United States control over the gates of a big prison for the entire world. This order was not meant to uphold justice and fairness, nor to cherish the peoples' sovereignty, independence, peculiarities, values, spiritual legacy, and right to choose their own way of life. The United States has been removed from the zenith. There are no longer any peaks for the United States to climb. Material peaks cannot be called peaks that promote humanity. However, the United States might soon start to climb the mountain to either reach the highest material capability in terms of influencing the course of events, if it rids itself of the complex of hubris and the temptation of immersion in material standards of measurement, which we do not think to be most likely, or to fall into the final abyss that stands below it, which we believe to be most likely, based on what we know of today's world and its deep-rooted history.

Well-known factors, some of which are similar to what we currently criticize in U.S. policy, caused France and Britain to climb down to the foot of the mountain in the aftermath of World War II, leaving the peak to the United States and the former Soviet Union. When the United States climbs down from the peak to the foot of the mountain, it will not remain on the foot of the mountain. Most likely, it will continue its move downward. And because the material world is not amenable to absolutism, no one has any guarantees of survival on the peak indefinitely, by any standards, particularly since the United States did not reach the peak by incremental and firm steps, nor by fair entitlement. It reached the peak when a vacuum presented itself. Hence, it seized the opportunity to fill this vacuum.

Given the terms we have used in our characterization of the United States, Zionism, their ambitions, the nature of their alliance, as well its objectives;

Given the fact that all this conflicts with the terms we have used to characterize Iraq and the Arab nation, regarding the disparity in goals, character, positions, and the nature of the faith embraced by our nation and its eternal message throughout all ages;

In view of United States' efforts to dominate the world militarily, politically, and economically;

In view of Zionism's efforts to exploit the world, in cooperation with the United States at present, and, at other times, with other powers, in pursuit of the policy of the convergence of interests and proportionateness of capabilities to realize joint ambitions, contradiction reached the point of clashes after the United States found, or, as a matter of fact, deluded itself into believing that the time was right to crush the epitome of values the Arabs see as an example to be emulated in terms of national and pan-Arab dignity, faith, integrity, and development. Consequently, the conspiracy was unleashed.

After many had given up the duty of rejecting what ought to be rejected and of accepting what is right and appropriate for peoples' interests and states' sovereignty, the United States, Zionism, and those who went into temporary alliances with them under certain circumstances, miscalculating the seriousness of such alliances, were encouraged to be dragged to an ill-omened aggression against the Iraq of the Mother of Battles.

Brothers, international relations cannot be rectified and stability cannot be achieved through certain parties' desire for hegemony and control. For, control destroys international relations and destroys the party that wishes to control. This has always been the outcome of every attempt in this regard by all those who established and created leadership on the basis of the world of belongings and things and their standards, and on the basis of strength. The international community now needs the wisdom of the group and collective leadership. Everyone, especially those who are known to have the balance in their favor in the material world, should remember that the capability and wisdom that satisfy God are not exclusively possessed by the big countries or the big powers. Perhaps wisdom is the last thing they consider. It does not become part of their lives until there appear powers that are bigger and more evil and aggressive than they are. Such new powers may even appear in their own world, the world they have opted for and through which they chose to be different from others—the world of material belongings. In fact, history teaches us that power has not been a constant asset for big states or big populations. Power does not indefinitely settle with large armies or states. History can help us recall further examples that tell us that fatal strikes against the largest armies and states have not been made by equal or superior powers, in accordance with traditional yardsticks of the meaning of power. Rather, such strikes have been made by powers that possess new yardsticks of power. A view of the results of what had been originally sought to be achieved in accordance with the plans and hopes of the states of aggression against Iraq, and against Somalia later on, will help provide a sound vision and clear piece of evidence about a major event which had a profound and comprehensive meaning and results.

On the eve of the 30-state aggression against Iraq, there were in Iraq targets that suit the capability of the advanced Western military technology. There were large hospitals for children and women, and others for the entire people. There were sophisticated plants, large buildings, water and electricity facilities, oil refining installations, everything that is related to oil products, and historical sites. Among the targets were even residential buildings that loftily tell of a prosperous age. For the means of destruction, all those constituted visual targets by firing from a distance.

The aggressors thought that these targets—as well as civic and military airports, mosques, churches, academic and cultural centers, and even radar sites, which attract a familiar type of their weapons and guide them to their targets—are suitable targets according to the standards of an appropriate target. A target is deemed appropriate in line with the technical considerations of their weapons, which are computer-fed.

The aggressors thought that the very fact that Iraq has such targets, which are appropriate for their weapons which they fire from a distance—and the fact that each of these targets is, of material value, equal or superior to the material value of the shell they fire at it—they thought this was enough to make Iraq bow down to their will. They sought to impose this evil will on Iraq and terrorize the world through Iraq. However, when the confrontation took place and consisted, on their part, of firing from a distance, and considering that the brunt of it came from the air—it was the heaviest known in the history of aggression and war—the harvest was in line with what Almighty God had decreed. Certainly, the results were contrary to their frustrated wishes and contrary to computer calculations, which were fed by the will of evil minds which have never entertained good thoughts.

Preparations for the aggression against Iraq lasted more than six months, before the frustrated people dared to attack beautiful Baghdad two and a half hours after midnight on 16 January and early in the morning on 17 January 1991. This period gave them a chance to collect much information about Iraq. Thus, the politicians and military found out a basic part of the information they were interested in, in terms of Iraq's size, population, the nature of its resources, its development, and even more private information in geopolitics and military and economic affairs. They found out, among other things, that Iraq, regardless of everything, has a small population, small size, and is a Third World nation according to the standards of technological and economic development. Those concerned also knew, through the information disseminated by the West about Iraq's capabilities and weapons—portraying Iraq's capabilities in legendary terms as very destructive—that the weapons they had amassed would be enough not only to achieve the declared and undeclared objectives which the villains made public or hid in their malicious, senile minds, but also enough to change the face of the earth and mankind.

This is what military officials and politicians used to say about the effect of their weapons once they would be used against Iraq. These included the U.S. secretary of state, who contributed to the aggression decision. Some of their political and military officials made statements to the same effect, not to mention the false and deceptive news blared out by their media. When they ceased fire upon the orders of the U.S. President, his allies or the greater part of them learned of the cease-fire decision from his famous speech in which he announced a unilateral cease-fire. The decision was made after they had collided with the Republican Guards southwest of al-Basrah and after facing watchful resistance whenever they came in contact with the army and people of great Iraq and with the roaring magnanimous thunder of our air and defense forces, the missile forces, the army helicopter gunship cavaliers, and all the troops and corps of our great army and valiant Armed forces. Despite the concentration of aircraft of all types and purposes, which covered the skies of the battle against the Republican Guards, the failed aggressors realized they would enter a new stage as a result of that resistance and would face consequences for which they had not made plans, therefore, the U.S. President announced the unconditional cease-fire, except for actions to protect their armies in case they were exposed to Iraqi fire.

The dust of the first chapter of the conflict with the regular armies settled down, but the aggression continued afterward in the form of air attacks on the Republican Guards in a treacherous breach of the cease-fire—a breach which is usually noted in the history of the invaders. The aggressors then stirred their Iran—sponsored chapter of aggression, which was not less evil or barbaric than their regular aggression against Iraq, but was in some ways tougher. This was followed by two more aggressions on 13 and 17 January 1993 and 26 June 1993, a series of occasional attacks on our air defenses, aircraft, and other targets were carried out between and after the two aggressions.

Briefly, the world of regimes and rulers in general, with few known exceptions, was divided into either keen participants or indifferent observers. However, after all that has happened, including the chapter of the severe and continued blockade, those regimes are now standing astonished, finding no sufficient explanation in their minds for the Iraqi people's great and legendary steadfastness. These people and the valiant army of the Mother of Battles are rightfully worthy of this great and honorable record. Thus, with the help of God, the militant Iraqis have managed to bring closer to the minds of those who went astray or temporarily deviated from the path of guidance and faith the extent of God's capability. The militant Iraqis have placed the entire world at the beginning of the road which will lead it to overcoming the complex of fear that the U.S. unilateral leadership of the material world has implanted in its soul. This fear has been so great that they dropped their weapons, or rather the weapons of infidelity, the moment this dreadful name was ever mentioned. The first wound that pained the soul and body of dear Baghdad with the first bomb that hit its land or any target in it on 17 January 1991 was the actual beginning of the weakness that has crept into limbs of those bragging about their strength and looking down on others. With the first bomb that hit Baghdad, pain and illness afflicted the bodies and souls of the treacherous tyrants of the 20th Century and their followers who disregard others, only to be disregarded by God and their own and other peoples. Thus, in the name of God, the souls of many states and peoples were healed.

Afterward, there came a supporting experience which revealed the traits of the free peoples. In view of the subsequent effects of the atmosphere of the immortal Mother of Battles that we have already described, and in view of the results that it had produced, the tyrants belittled the will of peoples and ignored the will of God. Nay, they ignored all that would remind them of wisdom. As ever, they discredit the poor and enslave human beings.

The people of Somalia were starving. Hunger, disease, and lack of clothing were apparent. They had only God to shelter them. They had no targets which are appropriate for the weapons and shells that are fired from a distance, some from thousands of kilometers. Not a single house in Somalia was equal in material value to their guided missiles. Also, the Somalis do not have many public facilities that prompt one to destroy them.

Because the pockets of the treacherous—who gave the aggressors the price for the shells with which they struck Iraqi cities and other targets and Baghdad, the city which preserved the values of the civilization of the Arabs and the heritage of humanity which believed in God—were emptied and could no longer support or finance a destructive aggression for a long period with expensive weapons, the devil thought once again of trying its luck in Somalia. The penetration of the skin and flesh of Somali children and women, and even men, requires only light hardware to be fired at a starving people who were exhausted by hunger and thrown away on sidewalks.

Bearing this description in mind, they thought that they could horribly insult not only to the people of Somalia but also to all nations of the world. Perhaps foremost among the people they had in mind to once again try to influence were the people of Iraq. This is why they once again belittled other nations. And God humiliated and disgraced them again and glorified the people of Somalia, who are starving and without clothes, save the clothes of dignity.

The villains thought that a people whom they think are powerless and who do not have an army like that of Iraq would quickly bargain over their leaders. Perhaps, they thought that the Somali people would save them the trouble of using their bullets of death and that some of them would quickly assassinate their resistance leaders. Damn their ideas, which will only lead them to further miscalculations and will throw them out of the realm of honor and respect.

Having been exhausted by their sick ideas, and after their plans fail to achieve their malicious goals, the Americans left a country which is not for them. What is worse still in describing the level of their moral deterioration is that America, which unfairly and aggressively advocated certain ideas in Somalia and mobilized others for this purpose, was not content, in its moral deterioration, by involving its allies. Its deterioration exceeded all possible limits and previous actions when it withdrew its troops and asked others publicly to remain in Somalia. It is strange for some Third World nations to accept this, while some of them say their regimes represent Islamic states. Do they not ask themselves about the legitimacy of staying in Somalia in the form of occupation of aggression, or in a manner that conflicts with the will of the Somali people? Do they think that the will of a people that rejects the presence of an occupying foreigner on its territory indicates that such a people are in need of foreign protection?

Brothers and friends the world over and in our greater Arab nation: This is an important aspect of the meanings of the suffering, bloodshed, and the record of jihad and struggle of the great Iraqi people in the Mother of Battles. Those who take a profound look at these meanings can reach conclusions which please and satisfy a suffering humanity, telling it that the beginning to the road of human guidance, after a long period of forgetting its meanings, has appeared. Also, the beginning of the road to deterioration and collapse of the tyrant has also appeared.

The experience acquires greater richness, becomes a catalyst for forward movement, and gains greater significance when we recall the role of our Palestinian Arab people, who dwell in our hearts and consciences, as well as each and every act of resistance and steadfastness throughout the world. The Palestinian people have taught all mankind that the weapons of resistance can be found on the ground as well as in hearts, consciences, and faithful minds. Wherever there is soil, there are weapons—namely stones. Whoever loses control of his territory is bound to get it back. He is bound to find stones on it to use in resisting tyrants, the occupiers of the territory and the usurpers of its history and orchards, who have been humiliating all Arabs and Muslims.

We salute the struggle of the Palestinian people, the stone- throwing people, the people who have an abundance of inexpensive weapons, and who are using them in resisting tyrants. These weapons are of great significance. Compared to arms depots all over the world, stones are sacred.

We salute the Somali people, and all peoples who have chosen to resist the evil will, to confront falsehood with right, to uphold the rights of the poor by the vindication of right, and to resist their exploitation by those who seek to rob them of their dignity, resources, and freedom.

O brothers and friends: Given what we are speaking of on this occasion; the other things that took place in the eternal Mother of Battles; the great faith-inspired resistance and gracious patience demonstrated by the great Iraqi people; and the examples they have set for mankind in general, and Third World nations in particular; you can now provide a better answer to the question posed by some regarding the objective the allies sought by attacking the Iraqi people, while ignoring others, in their savage aggression of 17 January 1991. In the same vein, you can also provide a better answer as to why their demons have failed to enable them to undermine the spirit of Iraq, and why their evil exasperation has been aggravated further, prompting them to engage in successive acts of ceaseless aggression, including the aggression they are mounting on our airspace and soil in northern Iraq, the aggression they are mounting on our airspace in southern Iraq, as well as their continued control of persons whose records are disgraceful and whose minds are evil, not to mention the unfair embargo they are maintaining against us. This has been the fate of their acts despite the blows they have dealt to Iraq. The answer, brothers, lies in all that we have said, and also in the example set by the Iraqi people in terms of the significance of their resistance to tyrants, and also in terms of the significance of the indispensable gracious patience they have demonstrated so that they may mark for themselves, for their nation, and for mankind a juncture for moving toward a better life along the path of genuine and selfless interaction that is free of greed, tyrannical inclinations, injustice, and totalitarianism.

O Arabs: Sound beginnings help achieve sound results. Although we realize that this alone is not enough to achieve the necessary results of our nation's struggle and jihad under circumstances similar to ours, the right description of the state of affairs in any domain that is viewed from a leadership perspective and determination is something essential and cannot be done away with in search of suitable solutions and accomplishments. It is not enough to embark on an analysis to explain the background of part of our role as Arabs and the background of our culture, heritage, and constant position as handed down throughout history.

Accordingly, what we said about the present stage of development in international and human life and its negative phenomena, will genuinely help us as Arabs and help our struggle and jihad and even our pan-Arab action, each according to the description befitting him whether the concerned Arabs are mujahidin and strugglers or mere workers in the political fields, and regardless of the titles under which any of them was listed when the nation advanced in its role, position, and results of what was achieved in terms of civilized description and offer when Baghdad represented the entire Arab nation through its influence, role, history, and outlook.

This continued until the eye, soul, strength, and consciousness of Baghdad stopped playing that role or having that influence when it collapsed after weakness penetrated the trunk of its tree. That tree became dry and broke into pieces at the hands of Hulegu in 1258. Before that date, and right from the beginning of its representation of the modern Arab age, Baghdad was a splendid example of balance between the spiritual values and requisites of development on the one hand, and outlook for a new life replete with virtue, prosperity, justice, and fairness in a state far more advanced than all others in the world on the other. Baghdad had thus based itself on the spirit of new faith and values of noble Islam. It used Islam's superiority to nourish the material pillar of life, giving no prominence to material considerations over spiritual or moral values. This was the case especially when a serious contradiction was visible and when the wise men of the nation and those mainly responsible for its banners and soundness of its direction agreed that it had this negative description.

However, Baghdad maintained its positive description and role, as we have said. It was not implicated itself in what past empires did nor in what subsequent empires continue to do. It has not replaced the role of a leader, guide, rescuer, and instructor in its relations with the other nations with the role of a dominator or subjugator. It has not replaced the role God has ordained for it in the koranic phrase "But give them preference over themselves, even though poverty was their own lot" by a role turning its wise leaders into monopolizers. The concern of its leaders was how to feed the hungry people, help the poor, and protect virtue even when those to whom care was extended were preparing to harm Baghdad.

Subsequently, our Arab civilization has not changed or developed in a manner that would lead it to produce a community governed and enslaved by material things. Rather, it exploited material things in the service of higher values. The spiritual factor remained the cornerstone of the new civilization and human values. This state of affairs continued until the Arab empire collapsed. Despite the weakness that preceded its existence, and despite the flaws that had been recorded against it and against its leaders, this empire did not develop into a materialistic state and society. Almighty and all-powerful God may have ordained that material development be transferred to the West so that the Arabs would not bear its consequences and so that they would not deviate from the sound human track, as did the Westerners for this and other reasons, in terms of their relations with other nations and peoples and with their own selves.

The Arabs have not created a materialistic society following the example of Western development and the exploitation and tyranny that this development has created. Yet, the Arabs remained in a state of temporary inertia, looking indecisively for a role and seeking to revive their past role. At that stage, the Ottomans tried to play this role and to obliterate the role of the Arabs. The Arabs did not score any accomplishment of historic value, and remained this way until the beginning of the formation of the regional, so-called nation states. When 'Abd-al-Nasir launched his revolution of 23 July 1952 in Egypt, many of these states were under foreign control and basically run as part of foreigners' strategies. Even when national regimes came to power in some Arab countries, confusion continued among national rulers, despite Arab thinkers' efforts. Those rulers either relied on irrelevant parts of history and heritage, or reviewed history and heritage only to cite verbal examples that are void of any content and never meant to be put into practice. Rulers did not play any effective intellectual role to develop parts of our heritage to support our present requirements. Many, both rulers and ruled, remained unable to find the sound formula to strike a balance between the materialistic and the spiritual, between the past and the present, between leading a religious life and living under acceptable contemporary laws, between the contemporary life copied from the West's trivialities and the nature of the required life, and between the heritage it values and the requirements of our age to achieve a spiritual and material civilization. They remained undecided between the rigid texts on the recorded history of rule and what we should decide theoretically and practically after absorbing and learning from the past. They also remained undecided between the importance of nationalism and the necessity of pan-Arabism. This state of affairs continued until most of the people, led by most of the rulers, were divided into either followers and copiers of the West's trivialities, which left the people without a spirit and without a role, or into parrot-like copiers of pieces of history and heritage, without putting their methods to the test or molding them to conform with the age in which they live.

As for the process of creating by building on tradition, as an intellectual and practical stand, we find virtually no examples of this in the policies of any ruler, nor do we find its application in a serious, comprehensive, and profound manner.

The sons of the nation have, throughout this period, continued jihad, struggle, and work. Some of them have brought us other ideas and views on humanity and the experience of other nations. Some of the sons of this nation, which God chose as a nation justly balanced, that ye might be witness over the nations, and the messenger a witness over you [part of Koranic verse]—since it is the source of the first regiment that upheld the banner of Islam until the banners of faith spread outside the Arab nation—have adopted communism, notwithstanding its atheism, under the pressure of social injustice and intellectual loss.

Regardless of how close or divergent views are between the sons of the one nation, following the example of other nations will not achieve progress for our nation. What will do this is a process of creation that rests on great faith in God and the higher values of our spiritual heritage. The foremost of these values are justice, fairness, creating an appropriate atmosphere for virtue, fighting vice, and making the poor of the nation the center of the attention of the ruler, since they have a right to the wealth of the nation, just as they have duties in the efforts and jihad of the nation. Also, we must provide the requirements for the cultural progress of the nation, based on pan-Arab thought and the structure of the pan-Arab society and faithful pan-Arab state.

Brothers, friends, believers, free people of the world and bearers of the banner of dignity. You tyrants, covetous, and disappointed criminals as well: God decreed our liberation after our suffering, thus he increased our patience and capabilities, which are protected by his power. God also gave us wisdom that enabled the people of Iraq to follow the right path. Let all villains know, however, that the people and leadership of Iraq, from a position of responsibility and patience, will not turn wisdom into a prelude for weakness and despair.

If we were patient over the continuation of the blockade, which was imposed by the will of the evildoers, despite all the actions of the tamperers and evildoers; and were also patient over the continuation of their flights in the southern part of our dear, deep-rooted Iraq, that violate its airspace and have been preventing our planes from flying south of the 32d parallel for some time with the help of some evildoers from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait; and the continuation of absurdity in the northern part of our beloved homeland and in the life of our dear people north of 36th parallel, despite the fact that the nature of their intentions and weak pretexts were exposed—we will not relinquish our people in the northern part of the homeland. Nor will we stand idle toward the continuation of the blockade and the violation of our sovereignty in southern Iraq.

For all evildoers, masters and satellites, we reiterate that they must not be deluded once again or miscalculate things. They should learn from the lessons of the recent past and comprehend their meanings on bases free of their evil intentions. Let them fear God and remember that his will is above theirs and that of their devils. Otherwise, the punishment of the criminals is an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. God is great. For all those concerned among the Arab rulers, we say: All that you have done against the people of Iraq is something that angers God, his prophet, the believers, all free Arabs, those who keep their pledges before God, and all those who work for the nation's glory, loftiness, and happiness, and for the sake of triumphing for the poor ones and for supporting the wronged people against the positions of injustice, corruption, and hunger. I also say that there is still some way out of this. I tell the wise believers: Will you do so? I have conveyed the message, and may God be my witness.

O glorious Iraqi women; O zealous and glorious Iraqi men: You have endured a great deal. You are worthy of the honorable endurance you have experienced, and of the rewards of such endurance. But, you still have to demonstrate the endurance usually required of believers during the last 10 days of the blessed month of Ramadan. Of course, there are rewards for fasting during this period in Ramadan. Patience and fasting during this period further cleanses the mind while the body is relieved of additional burdens to obtain the satisfaction of the merciful and compassionate God. Afterward, people celebrate the great feast, and mark a great victory of the mind, as well as a great victory over enemies, God willing.

May God answer our prayers, ease our burdens, strengthen our patience, and grant us great victory. May God protect our people, Army, and nation from adversity and mischief. May God grant us victory over the infidels. Amen. You are the cherisher and sustainer of the world.

We beseech God to bestow his mercy on the souls of the martyrs who fell in the Mother of Battles and the al-Qadisiyah battle, and on all of our righteous martyrs, who fell to uphold honor, the national cause, and principles. We beseech God to bestow his mercy on the Arab nation's martyrs, who fell along the path of struggle, jihad, and fateful battles.

Long live our glorious Arab nation. May its message remain eternal.

Long live Palestine as a free Arab country. Long live Palestine. Long live Iraq. Long live Iraq. God is great. God is great. God is great. And may the lowly be accursed.

May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you, brothers and friends.

Assassination Attempt Against Saddam Reported

PM1801153094 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 18 Jan 94 p 12

[Gerald Butt report: "Saddam Survives Attack"]

[Text] Nicosia—President Saddam Husayn has survived another attempt on his life—the third since last summer-according to a highly placed Iraqi official.

The official said in the Jordanian capital, Amman, that a lieutenant in the army opened fire on the Iraqi leader in Baghdad earlier this month. The officer appeared to be acting alone, he said. The official, who did not wish to be named, also confirmed reports which emerged from Baghdad three weeks ago about a bomb attack against the presidential convoy.

The explosive device had been left in a tractor abandoned by the roadside and was detonated as the convoy passed on Dec 28.

Last summer between 60 and 300 people were arrested and put to death, accused of being involved in an aborted coup attempt. Many of those rounded up were senior and trusted figures in the regime and came from Saddam's home city of Takrit.

According to Iraqi opposition sources, the latest attempt on the president's life may have been carried out by an officer who was seeking revenge for the death of a member of his family in the purge.

Saddam Addresses Athens Conference Delegation

JN1801200194 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, has said that all great missions, including the roles of the prophets in conveying God's message to mankind, are first communicated to a few people and then to millions of people. This came during a meeting he held today with a delegation from the International Committee of the Athens International Conference on Solidarity With Iraq. The conference was held in Athens on 6-7 November 1993. His excellency added: What we should do as people—as well as officials who are aware of their nation's objectives regarding human relations—is to work as hard as we can to reach a sound level in terms of human ties and relations among nations.

Addressing the chairman and members of the committee, his excellency, may God preserve him, said: The work you are undertaking is considered great by almighty God and by the people of the world, because you are truly democratic and because you want to see others enjoying what you yourselves are enjoying. He added: Meanwhile, the others—those who speak about democracy and human rights—kill and slaughter people and then continue to kill people by starving them.

Baghdad Reopens Defense Ministry Headquarters

JN1801150094 Baghdad INA in English 1400 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 18, INA—The headquarters of Iraq's Defence Ministry was reopened on Monday after Iraqi reconstruction teams have restored the historical magnificence of the first group of the Ministry's buildings which came under successive air and missiles attacks during the 1991 U.S.-led war.

A celebration was held at the site of the reconstructed premises attended by Defence Minister General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, the Army chief of staff and senior Army offices.

The reconstruction work included the removal of 225,000 tones of debris of 17 buildings. Eight new buildings were reconstructed in addition to over-all repair work for 11 other buildings which were partly damaged.

On January 17, 1991, the Defence Ministry headquarters came under air and missile attacks. It was attacked again on January 19 and 23, complete parts of the Ministry were demolished.

The old buildings were replaced with new modern ones that have exactly the same distinct architectural features of the destroyed ones.

Rabin Takes 'Positive View' of Clinton's Efforts

TA1801202194 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik on 18 January; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Sukenik] Is your referendum proposal one part of your reply to al-Asad and the Americans? I am asking because you have not responded as yet to whatever the Americans apprised you of.

[Rabin] At this point, I take a positive view of President Clinton's efforts to assist in promoting the negotiations with Syria. The Americans do not intend—they never did—to force negotiating stands on Israel. [passage omitted]

Clinton Informs Rabin of Access to U.S. 'Projects'

TA1801202594 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Cabinet ministers are bound to rejoice when they are informed of President Clinton's message, which was delivered to Prime Minister Rabin on Sunday [16 January]. The message says that as of now, Israel may participate in U.S. tenders and projects involving the launching of space satellites. The license includes access to American equipment and expertise. Until now, any such access was denied to our hi tech companies. This is a tangible expression of the United States' strong commitment to preserving Israel's qualitative edge, Clinton wrote in his letter, which was delivered by his team of advisers headed by Dennis Ross.

It is estimated in Israel that the implementation of this decision will create many new jobs, most notably in the Israel Aircraft Industries, REFA'EL [Armament Development Authority], and the Israel Military Industries.

Syria Reportedly To Halt Support for Terrorists

TA1601071394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Jan 94 p A1

[Report from Geneva by Gay Bekhor]

[Excerpts] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad may today notify U.S. President Bill Clinton that Syria will stop supporting "elements operating against the peace process," that is, the Palestinian and Lebanese terror organizations. Contacts on this Syrian announcement have been held since last night at the Intercontinental Hotel in Geneva. This was told to HA'ARETZ by a Lebanese diplomat in Geneva. The announcement reportedly will be handed over to the Americans today, but will not be publicized.

According to the Lebanese diplomat, the Syrians have prepared an initial draft stipulating that they "will suspend or stop supporting elements operating against the peace process." The Americans, however, are demanding a more detailed and explicit commitment, including mentioning Hizballah by name. In return, the State Department may strike Syria off the list of terror supporting countries. [passage omitted]

The Lebanese diplomat estimated that the Syrian-Israeli rapprochement will be similar to the Israel-PLO mutual recognition, which followed 'Arafat's public renouncement of terrorism. The Lebanese diplomat believes this will be the main achievement of the summit, which is to be held this morning at the Intercontinental Hotel in Geneva. The meeting is scheduled to last some three hours. A joint news conference may be held at the end of the meeting.

Academics Agree Syria Ready for 'Egyptian Model' Peace

TA1501094294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 15 Jan 94

[Text] Academics from Israel and Syria who met recently in Oslo worked out a nonbinding document of understanding which they have conveyed to the prime minister's bureau in Jerusalem and to President al-Asad's office in Damascus. Those who participated on the Israeli side were reserve Brigadier General 'Amos Gilbo'a and Dr. Yosi Olmert. On the Syrian side, there was Professor 'Aziz Shukri, dean of the Law Faculty at the University of Damascus and another professor whose name was not given.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the document says that Syria agrees to peace with Israel based on the Egyptian model—which includes the opening of embassies and trade, economic, and cultural ties—in return for an Israeli withdrawal from the entire Golan Heights. Each stage in the normalization process will be accompanied by a withdrawal stage. Differences surfaced on the timeframe for the withdrawal and the fate of the Jewish settlements on the Golan, although the Syrians accepted the Israeli position that settlements should not be uprooted.

Rabinovich to Syrians: Referendum Not To Undermine Process

TA1901054694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] The Israeli delegation to talks with Syria next week is to demand that the discussions focus first on security arrangements for the Golan Heights. The head of the Israeli team, Itamar Rabinovich, told Qol Yisra'el he will also explain to the Syrian delegation that any referendum held on the future of the Golan would not be aimed at undermining the peace process.

Peres, 'Arafat To Discuss Taba Talks in Oslo 22 Jan

TA1801202794 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will meet with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Oslo. The meeting will take place after the funeral of Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst on Saturday [d2 January]. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is also slated to attend the funeral.

The meeting was arranged in a conversation held in recent days between Peres and 'Arafat's adviser, Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, and in contacts between Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir and PLO official Abu-al-'Ala'.

Unless tangible developments occur before their meeting, Peres and 'Arafat will attempt to advance the Taba talks.

Rothschild Named Acting Head of Talks Team in U.S.

TA1801164094 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] Major General Dani Rothschild, coordinator of government activities in the territories, was appointed acting head of the Israeli delegation to talks with the Palestinians in Washington. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports that the prime minister has not yet officially ordered Rothschild to travel to Washington next week because he does not see a need to resume the talks on the Palestinian track in Washington while no progress is being made in Taba.

Rothschild was appointed after the Americans yesterday made clear to Rabin that they will send invitations to the Palestinians as well, and suggested that Nabil Sha'th and Amnon Shahaq also come to Washington. Jerusalem, however, does not wish to harm the Taba talks, which are not linked with the Washington talks. Rothschild was appointed acting head because the decision on who is to head the delegation to Washington has not been made yet.

'Massive' Illegal Building Reported in East Jerusalem

TA1801154194 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Jan 94 pp A1, A10

[Report by Jerusalem correspondent Nadav Shragay]

[Text] Two reports on illegal building by Arabs in East Jerusalem have recently been submitted to senior Jerusalem city officials. The first report points to "massive" illegal building in the Arab sector in the last few months, particularly in 'Isawiyah, Ra's al-'Amud, 'Anata, the Old City, and Herod's Gate.

Most of it does not consist of building infractions, rather construction of new houses. According to city officials, these activities are financed by Palestinian elements in view of reports about Israeli plans for accelerated construction in the eastern parts of the city in anticipation of the negotiations about the permanent arrangement in Jerusalem scheduled to begin in three years.

According to the reports, construction is very rapid, with the foundations and the ceiling being built simultaneously so that people may move in as soon as possible. The buildings are connected to makeshift water and electricity mains, and most of the work is done on Saturdays and holidays when municipal inspectors are off.

According to the municipality's report, a total of 344 building infractions (most of them new housing starts) was registered in East Jerusalem in 1993 alone: 189 in Bayt Hanina, Kafr 'Aqab, Shu'fat, and the northern part of the city; and 155 in the Old City, Jabal al-Mukabir, Sur Bahir, and Umm-Tuba.

The second report, issued by the Interior Ministry's Planning and Construction Inspection Unit, notes that as of July 1993 "there has been intensive illegal construction in East Jerusalem," in the face of "massive lack of inspection" on the part of the authorities, including the municipality. A map charted in recent months (which includes only parts of East Jerusalem and green and unzoned areas) shows that 438 buildings were built without permit in the last two years. As noted, the map does not include built-up areas, where the volume of illegal construction is estimated at hundreds of units.

Some 23 solid structures and 12 temporary Bedouin dwellings were built within the perimeters of the airport in 'Atarot; 29 illegal buildings were erected in a green area in Bayt Hanina; 51 in Walja; 19 in Khirbat Mazmuriyah; 41 in a green area in Abu-Tur; 23 in a green and unzoned area in al-Tur; 17 in a green and unzoned area in 'Isawiyah; 32 in an unzoned area in Hizma, on the edge of the municipal lines; and 13 in Dayr al-'Amud.

The report stresses that the charting is partial and has not yet been extended to areas where there is a greater incidence of illegal construction, such as 'Arab al-Sawahirah, Kafr 'Aqab, Ra's al-'Amud, Jabal al-Mukabir, etc.

The report states there are numerous reasons for the illegal construction, the main ones being:

—Lack of massive inspection in the field.

—The absence of city blueprints indicating where construction is legal.

—Population growth.

—The rise in the standard of living after 1967 which affords additional building.

—Vagueness about the boundaries of Jerusalem's jurisdiction.

—Water connections installed by the municipality, as well as water and electricity connections installed by the Arab electricity and water companies operating in Jerusalem.

The Interior Ministry's report asserts that Jerusalem Municipality indirectly caused the rise in illegal construction and the establishment of new neighborhoods through the large number of legal suits it files against building infractors and its lack of power to demolish illegal buildings. "This means that an illegally-built structure stands many years as the legal proceedings continue. The suits usually end with the infractors paying fines or serving short prison terms. Another factor is the long-standing policy apparently adopted by the municipality not to use a heavy-handed approach on the issue due to internal and external pressures."

The report goes on to say that the Interior Ministry's chart shows the existence of hundreds of inhabited illegal buildings in unzoned and green areas included in urban blueprints. Many such buildings have been included in city blueprints and legalized retroactively, but many others remain illegal. A study based on an air photograph carried a few years ago showed over 1,000 structures built without permits. The number of such buildings has increased considerably since then.

Three Injured in Hebron as 'Hundreds' Attack IDF

TA1801162494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] This evening, three residents were injured by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] fire in Hebron after an IDF unit came under a barrage of rocks near the Muslim college in the city. The three suffered moderate to serious wounds. Our correspondent Ron Nesi'el reports that hundreds of residents took part in the riot. The incident took place near a mourning tent, erected last weekend after four Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorists were killed in a gunfight with the IDF.

Hebron Arab Dies of Wounds

TA1901152994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Husam Sannun, a resident of Hebron who was critically injured yesterday evening during the dispersal of a riot near the local Islamic College, died today at Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital. The physicians ruled that he was hit in the head by an ax, and not by a bullet, as had been initially claimed. Our correspondent Ron Nesi'el reports that the riot in Hebron was dispersed by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers' gunfire.

A soldier was lightly injured in Rafah when a fragmentation grenade was thrown at an IDF patrol. The soldiers opened fire at the estimated site from which the grenade was thrown. IDF troops launched searches in the area.

UNRWA Worker, 7 Arabs Wounded in Gaza Disturbances

TA1501200494 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 Jan 94

[Text] Seven Arabs were wounded during disturbances in the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza today. Our correspondent Shlomi Eldar reports that soldiers shot and wounded the youths after the latter stoned them.

Terry Grill, a senior UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency] official who drove into the area was also wounded. Grill is the UNRWA official in charge of refugee affairs in Gaza.

A general strike was observed in Gaza today following the killing of five Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members in Gaza and Hebron yesterday.

UNRWA Worker's Injury Protested

TA1601202494 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 16 Jan 94

[Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has promised Amnesty International to uphold human rights in Gaza, PLO Executive Committee member (Manu Kamanji) stated today in a ceremony inaugurating the PLO's office in the city. (Kamanji) added that members of the Palestinian police force would receive guidance on upholding human rights.

Klaus Warren, the secretary general of UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency], lodged today a protest with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] authorities over the wounding yesterday of Terry Grill, the official in charge of refugees in Gaza who was wounded in the leg by IDF gunfire in the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood.

Our correspondent Shlomi Eldar that today, too, there were disturbances in Gaza. Youngsters threw stones at passing cars, and Palestinian sources report that IDF troops opened fire at the stone-throwers.

Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] today staged a mourning march near the house of Muhammad Salim who stabbed an Israeli to death and seriously wounded another on Friday. Standing outside his home, Hamas members chanted derogatory calls against Israel and vowed to avenge his death.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 16 January adds that "a firebomb was thrown this evening at the yeshiva near the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron. Our correspondent Ron Nesi'el reports that the firebomb shattered and ignited on the road, but nobody was hurt and no damage was caused."]

Sources Deny UNIFIL Soldier Hit by IDF, SLA

TA1701194394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Jan 94

[Text] Official Army sources deny that a soldier belonging to the Finnish contingent of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] was hit by an artillery shell fired either by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] or the SLA [South Lebanese Army]. Our correspondent in the north Yo'av Aviv reports that according to the sources, the IDF and SLA did not fire artillery in the region. It was also reported that UNIFIL withdrew a complaint issued this morning to the IDF's Liaison Unit with the United Nations.

Two Arabs Wounded in Qalandiyah; Shots Fired at Base

TA1801052994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] Soldiers shot and wounded two Arab residents of the Qalandiyah refugee camp near Ramallah last night. The soldiers say they opened fire on the Palestinian car when the driver refused orders to stop.

In Rafah in the Gaza Strip, shots were fired last night at a Border Police base. No one was injured. Earlier in the day, four Israeli soldiers were injured in Rafah from a grenade thrown at an Army patrol.

Government To Claim Irangate-Related Acts Legal

TA1601092894 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Jan 94 p A1

[Report by Aluf Ben and 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] The Israeli Government will issue an official reaction to the report on Irangate, compiled by the special U.S. prosecutor Lawrence Walsh, when it is published in the United States. The Walsh report is expected to be officially published this week.

The report levels criticism at Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin, who were prime minister and defense minister during the Irangate affair.

The Walsh report claims that Israel's Government was involved in law violations by U.S. Administration officials.

In its reaction, Israel will announce that when the affair first started, in 1985, the Israeli Government acts followed the assumption that the arms deals with Iran were carried out with the knowledge and approval of the senior U.S. political echelons.

The Israeli reaction will say that all of the government actions were taken in accordance with Israeli law, and that according to it, the acts were legal because the Israeli Government had assumed that the U.S. elements involved in the affair had the authority and approval required.

The Israeli reaction, drafted by (reserves) Major General Refa'el Vardi, special adviser to the prime minister and defense minister, will also include a legal reference to the U.S. prosecutor's claims and will address the claims which the Walsh report details.

Apparently, the Americans will allow Israeli civilians mentioned in the report—such as Ya'aqov Nimrodi, Al Schwimmer, and David Kimche—to respond to claims against them in the Walsh report.

Jerusalem sources said over the weekend that "Prosecutor Walsh has totally failed in his attempt to turn Irangate, an affair which caused a public and political storm in the United States, into a criminal affair.

"They failed to press charges against most of the Americans involved in the affair, and even Colonel Oliver North, who was put on trial, was eventually acquitted." According to the sources, "this is a distant and old story. The United States is tired of it, and the report is an artificial attempt by Walsh to revive it."

The prime minister's bureau said in response to the reports about the Walsh report that it has not yet been published, therefore the bureau will not refer to its content or consequences at this stage. [passage omitted]

Two Iraqi Citizens Infiltrate, Ask for Asylum

TA1701062794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 17 Jan 94

[Text] Two Iraqi citizens yesterday entered Israel, crossing the border from Jordan in the Dead Sea area. They turned themselves in to an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit, and asked for political asylum. The two were taken to a detention facility in 'Arad. The police will ask that they be remanded in custody today.

Foreign Ministry Presents Work Plan for 1994

TA1701093294 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Jan 94 p A5

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpt] Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir yesterday presented Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres with the ministry's working plan for 1994. The plan for the first time sets goals for the ministry's units and Israel's representations abroad. The most prominent political goal is the establishment of full relations between Israel and Muslim countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangladesh, and Pakistan—in Asia; Tanzania, Senegal, and Djibouti—in Africa; and the North African and Gulf countries of the Middle East. The Foreign Ministry aspires to establish normalization and economic relations even before full diplomatic relations are established.

Political sources have said that it is important that ties with the large Muslim countries be established before negotiations on the future of Jerusalem start. Progress in establishing ties with the Muslim and regional countries will depend on progress on and the implementation of the agreement with the PLO and the peace negotiations on the other tracks.

The plan sets two economic goals for the Foreign Ministry: Reducing trade deficit between Israel and the European countries, and fortifying the spread of Israeli economic representatives around the world, with a focus on East Asia. Negotiations on drafting the new agreement between Israel and the EC will begin next month, according to the mandate the EC Council issued in December.

The plan urges increasing the incorporation of the private sector in economic activity abroad, and calls on Israel's representatives abroad to assist in the establishment of ties between Israeli and foreign businessmen to give trade a boost. [passage omitted]

Syria's al-Shar' Visits Following Geneva Summit

Arrives With Message for King

JN1801162894 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1610 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Amman a short while ago. Our correspondent at the airport said that al-Shar' is carrying a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to his brother His Majesty King Husayn.

Al-Shar' will deliver the message to His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent. The message deals with the results of the Syrian-U.S. summit that was held in Geneva last Sunday [16 January]. The message also deals with coordination between the two fraternal countries concerning the peace process.

Briefs Prince Hasan

JN1801183394 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' at the Royal Hashemite Court this evening.

During the meeting, Prince Hasan and the Syrian foreign minister reviewed bilateral relations, Jordan's view regarding a comprehensive peaceful solution within the framework of Jordanian constants, and reinforcing Arab solidarity.

His highness stressed the need for coordination among all the Arab parties involved in the peace process. Al-Shar' relayed Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's greetings to his brother, His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal. Al-Shar' also briefed his highness on the results of the U.S.-Syrian talks in Geneva between President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton.

The Syrian foreign minister reiterated Syria's commitment to the peace process. He said the Geneva meeting was fruitful. Discussions also dealt with the comprehensiveness of the solution and the U.S. commitment to the peace process within the framework of the Madrid conference, as well as the Syrian commitment to the peace process.

Al-Shar' noted that he felt the United States was serious about making progress in the peace talks on all tracks within the framework of the Madrid conference to implement Resolutions 242 and 338.

Comments on Summit, Departs

JN1901083294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Amman—Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan received Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' yesterday evening. Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs, attended the meeting.

Al-Shar' delivered to Prince Hasan a letter from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to His Majesty King Husayn on the results of the Geneva summit between President al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton. The discussion during the meeting dealt with the results of the Geneva summit, the developments in the peace process, and the relations of cooperation between Syria and Jordan.

Faruq al-Shar' left Amman for Damascus last night. He was seen off by Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, Jordanian minister of state for Foreign affairs; the secretary general of the Foreign Ministry; ranking Jordanian Foreign Ministry officials; the Syrian charge d'affaires in Amman, and the Embassy staff.

In a predeparture statement to Arab and foreign news agency correspondents, Faruq al-Shar said: I briefed His Highness Prince Hasan, the regent and Jordan's crown prince, about the results of the summit between His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton. The discussion dealt with the peace process, its developments in light of the summit's results and the efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

In reply to a question on holding a referendum in Israel on withdrawal from the Golan, al-Shar' said: Israel has no right to carry out a referendum on the occupied Syrian Golan because a referendum on the rights and lands of others violates international law and the UN Charter. He added: States can only hold a referendum on domestic issues and not on the property of other countries.

Faruq al-Shar' stressed that Syria is not concerned with such a referendum because according to international law and the international resolutions the Israeli occupation does not cancel Syrian sovereignty on the Golan.

For his part, Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, Jordanian minister of state for Foreign Affairs, in a statement to the press said: The comprehensiveness of a solution was one of the main points discussed between President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton. He added: The Geneva summit has proved to be a success through the facts we have sensed today, and which prove that the summit meeting was positive. We hope that the dimensions and facts that were discussed would soon have their impact on the peace arena in a manner that will invigorate all tracks.

Al-Hasan concluded by saying that the optimism sensed by citizens through the media also prevailed during the meeting between al-Shar' and His Highness Prince Hasan.

Security Coordination Accord Signed With Palestinians

JN1901080594 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Jan 94 p 3

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Wafa' 'Amr]

[Text] Amman—Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Tuesday [18 January] signed a six-point agreement on security coordination and cooperation, Palestinian officials said.

The officials said the agreement was signed at the Foreign Ministry Tuesday morning by 'Abdallah Tuqan, head of the Jordanian delegation and Fakhri Shaqqurah, head of the PLO delegation.

Officials said the security pact was signed one week after the two sides agreed on a draft security protocol during meetings of the joint Jordanian Palestinian committee on security, land and borders.

The six-point general draft was sent to the Jordanian and Palestinian political leaderships for approval last week, and officials said minor linguistic modifications were made before the accord was signed.

Officials said the signing of the economic pact between the PLO and Jordan earlier this month paved the way for activation of the six joint committees which were frozen as a result of deteriorating relations because of the absence of coordination.

The joint committee on security, borders and land was the first of the six committees to meet following the improvement of PLO-Jordan relations.

PLO officials said the security part reflected a sincere desire by both sides to closely coordinate efforts in the future in order to preserve mutual security interests. This coordination, a continuation of the two people's struggles, would continue until the Palestinian lands were liberated, they said.

A Palestinian member of the committee told the Jordan Times that the first article in the pact called for close coordination and exchange of information on security and border issues, "reflecting the fact that Jordan still suffered from the Oslo complex and wanted assurances that the Oslo experience would not be repeated."

He said that Jordanian committee members had requested Palestinians inform them on details of developments of the Taba talks on border and security issues since Jordan lacks full details on these negotiations.

"We have agreed to find means of providing Jordan with full details of the Taba talks following each round of negotiations," the PLO official said.

The security pact also stated that Jordan would continue to provide Palestinians with training and assistance in the occupied territories in the fields concerning the functions of the committee, and there would be cooperation between the two sides to facilitate the crossing of Palestinians through the bridges.

PLO officials said the original draft, written by the 10-member Palestinian delegation, was amended by the Jordanian delegation before it was ratified by both sides. Jordanian officials were not available for comment, and PLO officials and members of the Committee refrained from disclosing any further details on issues of discussion during the committee meetings.

They only said that the security protocol was the second step, after the signing of the economic pact, in the right direction towards close coordination and improvement of relations between Jordan and the PLO.

They said there was no fixed date set for the next meeting, but it was expected that the other committees would soon start meeting.

It was not clear how this security pact would be translated into action before Palestinians reach agreement with Israel on border and security issues in Taba.

Group Protests 'Economic Normalization' With Israel

JN1901085194 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Jan 94 p 3

[Text] Amman—A group of predominantly leftist political activisits Tuesday [18 January] urged the establishment of Jordanian popular movement to resist what it called the normalisation of relations with Israel and protect the "Arab character of the region."

In a statement signed by 41 "intellectual, social, political and national personalities," including former and incumbent leftist deputies and heads of leftist political parties, claimed: "We have embarked on economic normalisation of relations with Israel before achieving a just and comprehensive" settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"(The signing) of the Gaza-Jericho accord... the Jordanian-Israeli agenda... and the (establishment) of the tripartite Jordanian-Israeli-U.S. economic committee, which has recently announced its decision to open branches of Jordanian banks in the West Bank... means that we have reached economic normalisation with Israel," said the signtories in a statement drafted after a meeting held at the Jordanian Writers Association in December last year and released Tuesday.

The government did not approve the reopening of branches of Jordanian banks in the West Bank until after it signed an economic agreement to that effect with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). It has repeatedly stated that it would not normalise relations with Israel before a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict is found.

The signatories claimed that the authorities introduced a "western style" democracy to Jordan in 1989 after riots in the south convinced them that elections were a national demand that "corresponds with Western calls for democracy."

They claim, however, that the government emptied democracy of its social, political and economic essence.

The signatories claim that public freedoms are as absent from Jordan now as they were before the elections of 1989. Only the way in which the government agencies are practising that "old way" have changed as they are covered with the mask of democracy, the leftist activits say.

The signatories charged that the government reintroduced "martial law" take the country and downplayed the significance of public freedoms laws that were enacted since the restoration of parliamentary life. [sentence as published]

"Martial laws were reintroduced through Parliament," said the statement.

It said the government changed the Election Law last year against popular will in a way that created a rift between the people.

Many of the signatories had threatened to sue the government if it changed the Election Law, but failed to do so.

Prime Minister 'Abd al-Salam al-Majali cited the failure on opposition to take legal action agains tthe change of the law during the confidence session at the Lower House of Parliament as a proof of the legality of the electoral change.

Al-Majali on King's U.S. Visit, Syrian Summit

JN1801127294 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali left Amman for London this morning to join His Majesty King Husayn on his visit to the United States.

In response to a question by reporters on the expected meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and U.S. President Bill Clinton, the prime minister said:

[Begin al-Majali recording] It is imperative that his majesty the king meets periodically with President Clinton to reevaluate the steadily developing bilateral relations, especially after the removal of the effects of the Gulf war on the Jordanian-U.S. relations. Undoubtedly, as you know, the United States is one of the two basic cosponsors of the peace process and has a paramount influence on the move for peace. Since their last meeting and up to their next meeting on Friday [21 January], major and significant events have taken place, making it essential to review many issues, including the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, the summit meeting between Presidents Clinton and Hafiz al-Asad, the developments in the peace process, and the multilateral and other negotiations that were held during the past six months. Therefore, there should be an emphasis on where we stand and what we should do from here, especially in regard to U.S.-Jordanian relations. We hope that this visit will yield more progress. Yesterday, the U.S. secretary of commerce visited us. This is the first time that a U.S. secretary of commerce has visited Jordan. We discussed commercial and economic bilateral relations. We hope that this will lead to a change for the better, especially with respect to the inspection of ships and the effect that it has the Jordanian economy. We explained that, apart from the inspection and its effects, Jordanian industry and trade relies heavily on the Iraqi market because of the unavailability of other markets. The embargo imposed on Iraq has had a grave effect on us. In addition, we believe that the embargo imposed on Iraq should be lifted because the Iraqi people are suffering terribly and are being subjected to an unprecedented punishment. Therefore, we want the embargo to be lifted. At the same time, this would help our trade and industry move freely to strengthen the Jordanian economy. [end recording]

On the Syrian-U.S. summit, the prime minister said:

[Begin al-Majali recording] First, we should recognize that no summit meeting is held without sufficient preparations. I believe that the Syrian-U.S. meeting was prepared for well. Therefore, the press reports that we have read and the signs that have been made indicate that this meeting has been successful. Of course, Israel is now expected to respond in an appropriate manner to this (?objective). [end recording]

U.S. Commerce Secretary on Trade Relations, Debt

JN1801134594 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2020 GMT 17 Jan 94

[Interview with U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ronald Brown by correspondent Maha al-Sha'ir at the Royal Cultural Center in Amman on 17 January—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Sha'ir] Your Excellency, you are the first American secretary of commerce to visit Jordan. How do you describe the trade relations between Jordan and the States, especially that it is one-sided in favor of the U.S.?

[Brown] I am very optimistic with my view of the trade relationship with Jordan. I think there is a real chance to enhance it, to have it grow and prosper. I am very pleased with the meetings that I have had here today both with the public sector and the private sector. I think the future is very bright, clearly as the peace progresses and Jordan has played a very important role in that process. I think the need for economic opportunity, economic growth, job creation will be increasingly important because peace should really improve the lives of all the people of the region, and that's why we are focusing on economic development issues which is an important part of that peace process and the stability that we all hope will follow. I have been very encouraged by what I have heard in Jordan.

[Al-Sha'ir] Your Excellency, I think you were hoping during your visit here to the region to exploit the possibility of increasing the U.S. trade and investment in the region. Now, after speaking to Jordanian officials, where do you think the areas that the American investors would be interested to invest in here in Jordan?

[Brown] I think that Jordan offers very great opportunities, that Jordan not only historically but geographically is at the confluence of much activity in this region. Jordan has a strong private sector, a very aggressive private sector. And I look forward to doing some matchmaking, so to speak, by putting together American businessmen and women with leaders of the Jordanian business community in order to form joint ventures and commercial relationships that can grow and prosper and create real economic opportunities for the people of Jordan, but also have a very positive impact on the American economy as well, as we endeavor to increase our exports to all parts of the world.

[Al-Sha'ir] Do you think this is possible when there is an inspection team stationed at the Port of al-'Aqabah, inspecting every or most of the ships that enter the Port of al-'Aqabah?

[Brown] What has been impressed upon me today is the very grave economic impact that those actions have had on the economy of Jordan. That has been impressed upon me by governmental leaders and private sector leaders, as well. I know that from the Jordanian perspective there is hope that while they understand compliance with the United Nations resolutions, they would hope there would be ways to streamline the process so that the economic impact on Jordan wouldn't be as great as it has been.

[Al-Sha'ir] Do you think your visit would ease the tension?

[Brown] I would hope it would because what I did was to express sympthy with the points that Jordanian leaders were raising, and I know Secretary Christopher, just a short time ago, also expressed that sympathy and empathy for the Jordanians. It is clear that the process is onerous, but the fact is that the nations that are enforcing it are complying with a multilateral action, that is an action by the United Nations.

[Al-Sha'ir] Have you discussed also with Jordanian officials the issue of debt relief?

[Brown] Yes, that was something that the Jordanians raised today. They've been raising it for some time as you know and can appreciate it's a very complex issue because it affects our relations with other countries that have a large debt as well. It is certainly something that is under review at the present time.

[Al-Sha'ir] You were also interested to talk to Arab leaders here in this region to lift the boycott on Israel. After speaking with Saudi and Gulf officials, as well as Jordanian officials, how do you sense the peace [word indistinct]?

[Brown] Well, it is a very complex and delicate issue, as I'm sure you appreciate. The United States' position has been clear from the beginning and that is that we believe the boycott is an impediment to trade and, therefore, an impediment to economic growth. As secretary of commerce of the United States, I have focused on the secondary and tertiary boycott, because those boycotts have direct negative impact on American companies, on American business and industry and it is my resposibility to be an advocate for the Amercian business and industry.

[Al-Sha'ir] Do you think it is a bit too soon; let's wait and see what will happen in the economic multilateral peace negotiations?

[Brown] Well, I certainly understand that that is the Jordanian position and the position in much of the Arab world that it should be a part of the peace process. That does not change the American perspective and position on the issue.

[Al-Sha'ir] And how do you see the future of this area, economically?

[Brown] I think very bright. I think with the peace at hand, with the peace process moving forward, and hopefully coming to a successful conclusion, the economic future is bright because there has been an environment in which there can be a free and open trade among the neighbors of this region of the world. An environment will be created where investment will be encouraged and where the confidence level of investors will be increased.

[Al-Sha'ir] Thank you, Your Excellency.

Senate President Meets U.S. Congressional Delegation

JN1901151194 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] The Upper House of Parliament has met with a U.S. Congressional delegation. House Speaker Ahmad al-Lawzi briefed the delegation on Jordan's commitment to a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. He said an Arab concern in a just peace was reflected through the Syrian-U.S. summit, and it will be asserted again during the forthcoming summit between his majesty the king and President Bill Clinton. U.S. delegation is in Jordan as part of a trip in the region.

UN Asked To Reexamine Policy on Export Permits to Iraq

JN1801173994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] The finance minister has said that Jordan has officially asked the United Nations to allow it to export commodities of Jordanian origin to Iraq without the approval of the Sanctions Committee. The committee was formed by the UN Security Council to examine requests submitted for exporting commodities to Iraq and includes 15 members representing member states.

In press statements, he said that Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has instructed Jordan's permanent representative at the United Nations to submit a request in this regard to the Sanctions Committee. He also asked that the Sanctions Committee consider any approval of any commodity as an open approval for all exporters of that commodity without referring to the Sanctions Committee to seek approval in the future.

The minister pointed out that Jordan has thus far not received an official reply to this request. The prime minister and the finance ministers are expected to discuss this issue with the Sanctions Committee during the meeting to be held in New York on 27 January.

The minister stressed that the government believes that the Sanctions Committee should treat all requests equally. This is a frank and clear reference to the absence of a standard policy in granting approvals, taking into consideration that some requests get approved, while other requests for the same commodity are not approved. The minister noted that the committee had approved 11 of 76 requests to export cloth to Iraq, while 41 requests were disapproved without reason.

The minister said that the U.S. Government dispatched a special 12-member delegation, led by one of its ambassadors, last September to discuss the issue of permits concerning exports to Iraq. He said that the official Jordanian authorities, including the prime minister, the finance minister, and the chambers of commerce and industry, told the delegation that it was necessary to reexamine the measures adopted by the committee in order to stop the grave losses inflicted on Jordan's economy as a result of the blockade and the lack of equal consideration for granting approvals.

Al-Majali Addresses Deputies on Budget Draft Law

JN1501213894

[Editorial Report] Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic, at 1805 GMT on Saturday, 15 January 1994, carries live from the House of Representatives building in Amman Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd- al-Salam al-Majali's reply to deputies' remarks on the state's general budget draft law. This reply concludes the House's deliberations on this draft law.

Prime Minister al-Majali begins by thanking the members of the House of Representatives for all their remarks, ideas, and proposals. He says: "The analyses and deliberations were characterized by a degree of national and pan-Arab responsibility, by the spirit of affiliation, and by a sense of mutual responsibility, which we are shouldering together in our endeavor to serve both the homeland and citizen."

Al-Majali then reviews how Jordan achieved development, thanks to its courageous leadership and sons. Afterward, he adds: "I, along with all of my brother ministers, fully appreciate the objective criticism, which is based on truth."

Reviewing the Jordanian economy, al-Majali notes that Jordan's foreign trade amounts to approximately 80 percent of its gross local product [al-natij al-mahalli al-ijmalli] in imports and exports. He adds: "The government expenses cited in the general budget draft law amounts to approximately 35 percent of the gross local product." Al-Majali also notes that "the Jordanian foreign debt is regarded as one of the highest rates of indebtedness in the world as compared to the per capita income" due to the fact that the Jordanian government is shouldering great responsibilities.

Al-Majali adds that "the foreign debts we owe the brothers and friends should be repaid, either from our own resources, by reducing the expenses, or by managing the debt itself." Afterward, he counts the demands that the deputies submitted to the government regarding services, funds, and projects in their constituencies and other projects in Jordan.

Afterward, al-Majali asks: "How can we increase expenses and decrease revenues, and then demand that both the budget deficit and the indebtedness be reduced?" He also notes that "the community has priorities that should be acknowledged because it is impossible to achieve everything in a few days."

Defending the 1993-97 five-year development plan, al-Majali says that this plan "came in line and in harmony with the policies of all ministries."

Referring to the deputies' remarks on Jordan's introduction to the GATT, al-Majali notes that the GATT is "a multiparty trade agreement that comprises approximately 116 states, including five Arab states." He adds: "In this regard, I would like to reassure your esteemed house that in the event of a real introduction to the GATT, this will not require making substantive changes in the government's economic policy. Moreover, Jordan, during the negotiations with the GATT members, will not sell out any of its constant economic principles, and will endeavor to obtain the best possible results. However, in case no agreement is reached with other members, Jordan will not find itself committed to join it."

The prime minister then reviews the government's policy on administrative development, noting that among the principles adopted is "the principle of administrative decentralization and local government." He adds that the government will study the deputies' recent and future demands, and that it is ready to fully respond to both the deputies and the parliament in order to entrench the bases of democracy and consultations between the executive and legislative authorities.

Prime Minister al-Majali ends his 37-minute speech at 1842 GMT. The House of Representatives then begins to vote on the state's general budget draft law.

House Approves 1994 Draft Budget

JN1601064594 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0530 GMT 16 Jan 94

[Text] The Lower House of Parliament has approved a 1.5 billion dinar budget for the current year. The budget was approved by 56 votes in favor and 21 against after a four-day debate. Three lawmakers were absent.

Deputies passed the government's draft budget which envisaged no deficit with minor amendments. Responding to legislators' demands, Finance Minister Sami Qammuh said that the government was striving for addressing the pocketbook issues that worry Jordanians.

The draft budget will now be submitted to the Upper House of Parliament for approval.

Sentences Handed Down in Assassination Trial

JN17011601 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Jan 94 pp 1,5

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sana' Atiyah]

[Text] Marka—The State Security Court Sunday [16 January] handed down three death penalties, three life prison terms at hard labour and five 15-year prison terms after the three-man military tribunal found 10 men guilty of conspiring to assassinate His Majesty King Husayn.

The verdicts were read out by the presiding judge, Colonel Hafiz Amin, in a four-hour session, ending a four-month trial where the 10 stood accused, two in absentia, on charges of plotting to kill the King, to change the Constitution by force and belonging to an illegal organisation, the Islamic Liberation Party (ILP), aiming to topple the regime and replace it with an Islamic caliphate state.

Two of the men sentenced to death by hanging, merchants Walid Shahin and Yusuf al-Sabatin, were still at large when the court handed down the verdict. Isma'il al-Wahwah, who remained calm throughout the trial, stood up to hear his death sentence.

Mr. al-Wahwah, the two fugitives, and preacher Hilal al-Shammut were also found guilty of belonging to an illegal group, the ILP, aiming to topple the regime through violence, while the rest were cleared of the charge.

Despite insistence by the ILP, founded in the West Bank in 1951, that it did not advocate violence to topple regimes, the court concluded that the group, which did not apply for licence under the political parties law, believed in using violence to change governments. The court held the party responsible for plotting the assassination and the court cited leaflets distributed by the ILP and sections of the party's political programme as evidence providing that the party advocated violence to topple regimes to be replaced with an Islamic state.

Two ILP leaders, 'Ata Abu-Rashtah and Bakir al-Khawalidah, were released from detention at the General Intelligence Department (GID) in November after being detained for over two months in an unrelated case, but they were not charged.

While all the 10 accused—including five cadets from Mu'tah University South of Amman and a member of the Royal Escort Unit—were found guilty of conspiring to kill the Monarch, all of them were found innocent of trying to change the Constitution due to lack of evidence, according to Col. Amin.

The court concluded that two of the accused were to shoot King Husayn in the head during a graduation ceremony at Mu'tah University, a military academy, in June last year. Col. Amin noted that such a conspiracy was punishable by death.

Col. Amin handed down the sentences after the three judges took turns reading a detailed analysis of the prosecution and defence evidence and explained how the court reached its verdict.

The judge commuted death penalties against Mr. al-Shammut and Muhammad 'Awdah 'Askar of the Royal Escort Unit to life in prison, while death sentences against cadets Husayn al-Jidi, Basil al-Zughul, Ziyad al-'Abdallat, Sulayman al-Zuyud and Fu'ad Shudayfat were commuted to 15 years at hard labour.

Col. Amin said that these sentences were commuted because the imam, Mr. 'Askar and the five cadets were "taken advantage of their youth and poverty," and because they did not have previous criminal records.

Most of the defendants heard their sentences quietly. Some nervously grinned. Mr. al-Jidi told the judge not to bother commuting his sentence, while Mr. 'Askar made inaudible remarks at the judges and gestured with his hand.

The court found that the confessions made and signed by the eight defendants to Prosecutor Major Muhannad Hijazi were valid and disregarded claims made by the accused that they were tortured into signing the confessions.

The suspects alleged that they were systematically beaten during their three and a half month detention at the GID before they were transferred to al-Zarqa' military prison in August and that they were coerced by GID officers into signing confessions given to Maj. Hijazi.

The court, however, said that the testimony of the clerk who wrote down the defendants' statements proved that only Maj. Hijazi, the clerk and one defendant at a time were present during the prosecution questioning, contradicting claims by the accused that a GID officer was present and issuing threats during the questioning.

The judges also said that testimonies by other witnesses who were detained at the GID, including Mr. Abu-Rashtah and Mr. al-Khawalidah, who denied they were beaten or abused during their detention at the GID, made the panel conclude that there was no evidence to prove the defendants were actually tortured. The court also noted that the doctors who checked the defendants for signs of torture in October did not prove that they were physically abused.

More than two dozen men were detained at the GID in April and May in connection with the plot, but most of them were released.

The presiding judge reminded the defence that the verdict could now be appealed. Defence lawyers later told reporters that they would immediately appeal the verdict in the court of appeals, a civil court, where the whole case would be heard again.

This would be the first security case to be appealed since Parliament last year amended the State Security Court Law to allow for appeal of the court's verdict. The old law made the military court's verdict final, unless the King issues a pardon.

The verdict was read amid tight security where more than two dozen heavily-armed military police lined the courtroom, while dozens of others surrounded the premises of the courthouse. Blue-clad riot police also stood outside the gates of the court, preventing the women relatives of some of the defendants from getting too close to the courthouse.

Mothers and sisters of the accused men, who were prevented from attending the final session, began screaming and crying in the street when they heard of the court ruling.

"This government is unjust, may God curse you," wailed one mother as another son tried to calm her down.

Last week, nine men related to some of the defendants were detained following fist-fights between them and police at the court after they protested the court's hearing of the clerk who testified that no GID officer was present during the prosecution questioning. Security sources said the nine were still in detention, and, though two are expected to be released, the others are charged with contempt of court.

Before the court read out the detailed verdict, defence lawyers insisted that the prosecution had failed to prove any of the charges against their clients, and continued to deny the charges.

Deputies Question Court's 'Neutrality and Honesty'

PM1701111194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Jan 94 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Jordanian Deputies Believe the Case of Plot To Assassinate King Husayn was Fabricated"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Seven members of the Jordanian House of Representatives yesterday said that they believe the case of the plot to assassinate King Husayn of Jordan was fabricated from beginning to end.

In an urgent memorandum addressed to the House of Representatives speaker yesterday, they said that the court had jailed a large number of defendants' relatives on the charge of contempt of court because they had protested at being sent out of the court during the latest session. They added that relatives of the defendants and detainees were still being sought.

The deputies called on the House of Representatives speaker to intercede with the prime minister, who has the power to form the state security court, and also with the Jordanian monarch "on whom we pin every hope and everything that is good," according to the memorandum. The deputies who signed the memorandum questioned the neutrality and honesty of the court members. They said that the neutrality and honesty of the judges were questioned in a report submitted to the House of Representatives when the case of Deputy Layth Shubaylat was discussed. They called for a restructuring of the court by the prime minister to comprise other judges, including civilian judges from the independent regular judicial system.

The memorandum was signed by Deputies Ahmad al-Kasasibah, Bassam al-'Amush, and Hamzah Mansur for the Islamic Movement and also by Deputies Khalil Haddadin, Muhammad Dawadiyah, Tawjan Faysal, and 'Abd-al-Karim al-Daghmi.

The memorandum was distributed to a limited number of journalists by Deputy 'Abd-al-Karim al-Daghmi on the sidelines of yesterday's session of the House of Representatives, held to discuss the state budget for the current fiscal year.

Israeli Planes Carry Out Raid Near Beirut

NC1901125194 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1242 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] We have just received word that Israeli military planes raided al-Na'imah [approximately 10 miles south of Beirut] five minutes ago. An even more recent report says the Israeli planes are raiding the town again right now.

Amal-Israel Clashes Occur in Southern Areas

Israelis Shell, Rake Areas

NC1401171194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Jan 94

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces shelled the township of Shaqra with 120-mm mortars from their positions in al-Qantarah at noon today. Citizen Muhammad 'Ali Dib suffered grave head injuries and was taken to Tibnin's government hospital.

The shelling extended as far as Wadi al-Saluqi, Qabrikha, and Majdal Silm.

Earlier today, the occupation forces raked the periphery of al-Ghanduriyah, Frun, and the al-Litani River basin with heavy machine-gun fire.

Amal Claims Killing of Israelis

NC1401195894 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 14 Jan 94

[Text] In the south, the Amal Movement Operations Room issued a statement a while ago saying that at 1820 today the Group of Martyrs Bassam Humani and Jihad Tawbah laid ambush near al-Thurah position to a joint Israeli-Lahd patrol. The group fired machine guns and rockets at the patrol, killing a number of Israeli soldiers.

Following the operation, the statement says, the Israelis shelled the outskirts of Kafr Rumman and the abandoned Army barracks in al- Nabatiyah with 82- and 120-mm guns from their positions in al-Dabshah and al-Thurah. The Amal Movement vowed to its members, the wounded and those who are being held in Israeli prisons, to liberate all the soil of the south.

Amal Attacks Israeli, Militia Posts

NC1501093894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 15 Jan 94

[Text] The Amal Movement has announced that on the anniversary of the martyrdom of one of its members, Abu-Jamal, one of its groups attacked an Israeli occupation forces' position on Hula hill at 0630 today, using automatic weapons and rockets. Subsequently, the enemy forces shelled Shaqra and Bra'shit, using 120-mm artillery.

The Amal Movement also announced that one of its groups last night attacked an agent militia position on al-Shumariyah hill, using automatic weapons and rockets. The resistance fighters hit an observation tower and destroyed the position's fortifications.

Amal Attacks; Israeli Shelling Continue

NC1601104794 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Jan 94

[Text] The Israeli forces continue to besiege the townships of Rumaysh, 'Ayta al-Sha'b, and 'Aramta. Our correspondent reports that enemy forces bombarded the approaches to al-Nabatiyah and Kafr Tibnit with mortars.

Meanwhile, an Amal Movement group attacked enemy positions in Hula, using rockets and medium machine guns. A clash ensued for 10 minutes between the group and the enemy troops. Enemy helicopters flew over the scene of clashes. Another group attacked the occupation position in al-Shumariyah, inflicting heavy material losses on the position. Immediately afterward, the enemy forces shelled Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah.

Further on Continued Fighting

NC1701071794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Jan 94

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces have continued their attacks on villages and towns in the south. Israeli heavy artillery shelled Qabrikha, Wadi al-Saluqi, and the perimeters of the Tallusah position. This was accompanied by raking with machine guns. Earlier, the outskirts of al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and Kafr Tibnit came under artillery fire and raking with machine-gun fire. The area around Majdal Silm and Shaqra also came under artillery fire. Israeli helicopter gunships also strafed those areas.

The Amal Movement has announced that one of its groups has attacked the Israeli position on Tallusah hill, using automatic weapons and mortars. A 15-minute clash ensued with the position's guards, during which the resistance fighters scored direct hits and destroyed the observation tower.

SLA Positions Shelled

NC1701103194 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 17 Jan 94

[Text] Our correspondent in the security strip reported today that an explosive device went off at 1030 today under a South Lebanese Army [SLA] patrol on the road to al-Shumariyah. At the same time, artillery fire hit the al-Shumariyah and al-Qantarah positions belonging to the SLA. Our correspondent reports that the shelling is continuing at this hour, but he did not report any injuries among the ranks of SLA.

Our correspondent reports from Tyre that the Israeli forces fired four mortar shells at Wadi al-Hujayr in the central sector. They also directed raking fire from their positions in al-Qantarah Wadi al-Saluqi and Wadi al-Hujayr. At around 1015 today, Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier over Tyre and the Palestinian camps.

UN Soldier Wounded in by Israelis

NC1701112394 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Jan 94

[Text] An explosive charge went off on the al-Shumariyah road this morning, causing no casualties. Meanwhile, a UN soldier was wounded when a UN post in 'Alman came under terrorist shell fire.

[Paris AFP in English at 1027 GMT on 17 January in a Tyre-datelined report, says: "A Finnish peacekeeper was wounded by Israeli shelling in south Lebanon Monday, a UN officer said.

"The soldier, who was not named, was slightly hurt when a 155 mm mortar [as received] shell fired from inside Israel's self-declared security zone in south Lebanon exploded near a UN position, said the officer from the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

"The shelling began after a bomb attack on a patrol from Israel's proxy South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia, which caused no casualties.

"SLA and Israeli forces retaliated by shelling nearby villages outside the zone where Iranian-backed Hizballah guerrillas are based."]

Amal Claims 2 Killed by Bomb

NC1701143194 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Jan 94

[Text] The Faithful [Amal Movement] Resistance has issued this statement: The Martyrs Hamzah Nasr-al-Din and 'Ali al-Tarabulusi Group planted an explosive device on the Dayr Siryan-'Alman road at 1030 today; and it exploded under a joint patrol of the enemy and its agents. Two of the enemy died and several others were wounded.

In the wake of the explosion the occupation forces bombarded Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Mazra'at al-Hamra', and the al-Litani river basin with 82-mm and 120-mm mortars.

Israeli Shelling Continues

NC1701203194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Jan 94

[Text] News from the south indicates that the Israeli occupation forces continue to fire scores of illumination flares over Kafr Tibnit, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah Villages and the al-Litani River basin.

Earlier the occupation forces fired scores of shells in the direction of valleys and hills adjacent to the al-Litani River basin. Reasons for the shelling were unknown.

Israeli Gunboat Fires on Fishing Boats

NC1601100494 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 16 Jan 94

[Text] Our correspondent in Tyre reports that an Israeli gunboat has opened fire on a number of Lebanese fishing boats off the Ra's al-'Ayn coast, south of Tyre, wounding fisherman Ibrahim Muslimani in his shoulder. A number of boats sustained damage and their nets were lost.

Birri on Beirut-Damascus Summit, Geneva Summit

NC1801160794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri has revealed that an expanded Lebanese-Syrian summit meeting will be held at 1100 tomorrow. He said that the Geneva Summit has placed the key in the lock but we must not be hasty and think that the doors have been opened.

Speaker Birri met today with Chairman of the Editors Association Milhim Karam and the Association Council members. He called for maintaining the principles that were established at the beginning of the present regime. These are: national solidarity, first and foremost; solidarity with fraternal Syria; and adherence to UN Security Council Resolution 425.

He said that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has placed the ball in the Israeli court, but we must not be overly optimistic. He expressed the view that Israel will try to find a way to dodge the new U.S. position.

After stressing the importance of internal solidarity, he maintained that the recent explosions and tension were done before the U.S.-Syrian summit to divert attention from the need to liberate the occupied border strip and to discuss ways to calm the situation.

Regarding his holiness the pope's visit to Lebanon, Speaker Birri confirmed that this visit will take place and that all Lebanese will welcome his holiness the pope because it will benefit Lebanon and the Arabs.

Al-Jumayyil: Summit Aims To Reactivate Negotiations

PM1901111494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Jan 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Al-Jumayyil: Geneva Summit Aims To Reactivate Negotiations"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—Former [Lebanese] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil has said that "the Geneva summit between President Bill Clinton and Hafiz al-Asad falls within the framework of reactivating the Washington negotiations, which have been eclipsed by the Oslo agreement." He added: "Lebanon welcomes any meeting that pushes the peace process forward, especially the meeting between Presidents Clinton and al-Asad. However, one should wait before drawing quick conclusions, especially as Israel has a fundamental say in this connection. And we have not yet heard any Israeli reaction.

"I believe it is our duty to wait in view of the experience learned from previous peace initiatives, as only those which resulted from direct dialogue between Israel and the other party, like al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem and the Oslo meetings between the PLO and Israel, have succeeded."

He went on: "In the next weeks or months we should find out whether the Geneva agreement was held merely to save face and keep Syria in the negotiations, or whether it actually represents an advance toward peace. The answer to this question will be in the results of the next meetings between Israel and Syria."

Asked whether Lebanon's fate was discussed in the summit, he said: "Any talks on Lebanon's fate that are not conducted by the legitimate owners of the house, who are elected freely and democratically by the people and who know the internal affairs of the house better than anyone else, are not binding on the Lebanese people, who will continue to struggle—no matter how long it takes and regardless of the pressures—to restore their free decisionmaking and secure their higher interests."

'Awn Views Impact of Clinton-al-Asad Summit

PM1901111894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Jan 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "'Awn: Peace Means No One Should Play Someone Else's Role"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—Commenting on the results of the Geneva summit held between Presidents Bill Clinton and Hafiz al-Asad, former [Lebanese] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn said: "The coming days will show whether the summit talks succeeded or failed. However, it is clear that the United States will bless the agreement among the parties concerned, but it will not be a third party in the dialogue. What it is directly interested in is ending terrorist actions in Lebanon, and from within."

He added: "The Lebanese—people and officials inside and outside—know that terrorist actions are Syria's responsibility, but by different names. From what was said about the discussion of the issue of the Kurdish Workers' Party [PKK], Hizballah, and the [Ahmad] Jibril group [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command] it can be concluded that Syria was requested not to tackle the unstable situation in Lebanon, but to stop it, on the grounds that Syria is acting like a fireman who starts a fire so as to extinguish it."

He went on: "Establishing peace in the region will have a positive effect on Lebanon, because this peace means that no one should play someone else's role. Every state should play its role within its own borders, not outside them. We will continue to achieve our aims as regards full sovereignty and good relations with our neighbors. Our rights in our homeland are fixed and are not wishes or demands."

In conclusion, he said: "As for the agents, they have been impudent, to the extent that they accuse anyone who talks about sovereignty and independence of extremism. They are not ashamed of their baseness in dealing with the occupiers."

Minister Samahah on Council of Ministers Session

NC1801200494 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Statement by Information Minister Michel Samahah after the Council of Ministers session in Beirut on 18 January—recorded]

[Text] The Council of Ministers held an extraordinary session this afternoon by invitation from the prime minister. The president chaired the session. The president opened the session by deeply thanking President Hafiz al-Asad for bearing the case of Lebanon in his heart and mind at the summit he held with President Clinton in Geneva. The subject of Lebanese rights took up a large part of this summit, during which President Hafiz al-Asad concentrated on the implementation of Resolution 425. This was included in President al-Asad's statement after the summit.

The president also informed the Council of Ministers of the contacts he held after the summit with President Hafiz al-Asad. The president told the Council of Ministers that this afternoon he received the U.S. ambassador in Lebanon, who conveyed a message from President Clinton detailing the discussions during the summit regarding Lebanon and the future direction of peace negotiations in Washington. President Clinton is trying to make 1994 the year for establishing peace in the region.

The Council of Ministers also learned about the contents of the telephone conversation between U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and the prime minister after the Syrian-U.S. summit in Geneva ended.

In preparation for the Chamber of Deputies discussions of the 1994 budget on Thursday, the minister of state for financial affairs presented to the Council of Ministers the budget for 1994 with the amendments made by the parliamentary Finance and Budget Committee. The Council of Ministers discussed all these points and approved the amendments made by the Committee.

Hizballah: U.S. Congressional Visit 'Insult'

NC1501063194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 15 Jan 94

[Text] The Lebanese Hizballah revolutionary movement has criticized U.S. policies and has accused Washington of catering to the Zionist regime's demands. A Central News Unit report from Beirut cites the Hizballah secretary general, who said yesterday that in continuation of its policies in the Middle East the U.S. Government thinks only of the interests of the regime occupying Jerusalem and how to meet that regime's demands.

Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah described the visit by a delegation of U.S. Congressmen to Lebanon as an insult to the Lebanese people. The Hizballah secretary general said: The United States attaches importance only to the fate of a few soldiers of the occupying army who disappeared during an attack on Lebanese territory, while it pays no attention to the fate of hundreds of Lebanese who are living under the most difficult of conditions in Zionist prisons.

Government Leaders Leave for Summit in Damascus

NC1901100194 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] An expanded Lebanese-Syrian summit will be held in Damascus to assess the Geneva summit and discuss how to coordinate the two countries' positions.

President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, and the head of the Lebanese delegation to the Arab-Israeli talks, Suhayl Shammas, left for the Syrian Capital this morning.

Alleged 'Secret' Syria-U.S. Accord Detailed

JN1901134294 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 19 Jan 94 p 3

["Exclusive" report: "The Secret Clauses of the Syrian-American Agreement; Expected Meeting Between al-Shar' and Peres; Syrian Promises To Silence Hizballah and Opposition Factions"]

[Text] All observers agree that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is one of the most skillful players in the Middle East. He managed to wrest a great deal from the U.S. Administration in return for only a few things which the Syrian leadership considers important but not of a priority nature. The Syrian president carried with him to Geneva three main files, one on Syria's regional role, another on the Syrian role in Lebanon, and a third on the Golan Heights. Contrary to the U.S. Administration's expectations, the file of the Golan and Israel's withdrawal from it was the last and not the first to be carried by President al-Asad to his Geneva meeting last Sunday [16 January].

Excluding what the Arab and foreign newspapers published, AL-BILAD managed to obtain the most important points discussed by the two sides—points which were kept secret pending their publication at a time appropriate for both the Americans and Syrians. These points are:

—A secret American approval of giving the Syrians a free hand in Lebanon after obtaining a pledge from President al-Asad to guarantee the security of Israel's northern borders and to silence the katyushas forever.

—Reactivation of the Syrian role in the region and giving Syria a larger regional role after most of the Egyptian cards have been exhausted.

—Removal of Syria from the terrorist list following Syrian-American talks to be held in Washington for this purpose, including a Syrian pledge to liquidate and silence the Palestinian factions opposing the peace process forever, renounce terrorism, restrict Hizballah movement, and liquidate the remnants of the Kurdish Workers Party revolutionaries in Syria.

—A clear and explicit Syrian declaration of its acceptance of full peace and full normalization and the establishment of normal relations with Israel. This will be followed by an Israeli recognition of Syrian sovereignty over the Golan Heights. Negotiations will then be held on the territory the Israelis will hand over to the Syrians in the Golan, along with security arrangements appropriate for the Israelis.

—Resumption of the next round of talks in Washington on 24 January, to be followed by a meeting between the U.S. secretary of state and the Syrian foreign minister. A U.S.-sponsored meeting between Peres and al-Shar' might be held to sign the agenda in the middle of next month.

—Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied Lebanese border strip in accordance with the UN resolutions after obtaining a written Syrian commitment to guarantee the security of northern Israel and provide total security for total peace.

These are the most important points that were kept secret about al-Asad-Clinton summit. The coming days may reveal more.

Geneva Summit Marks 'Moment of Truth' for Israel

PM1901144294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Jan 94 pp 1, 4

[Salwa al-Ustuwani report: "Damascus Circles Talk About Conditions for Full Normalization"]

[Excerpt] Damascus, Amman, Beirut, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Damascus circles hope that the Syrian-U.S. summit held in Geneva the day before yesterday will be "the beginning of a new phase that leads to returning the land to its owners and hence full normalization through the land-for-peace principle, so that the region will move to the stage of economic development and prosperity." A senior Syrian official told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that his country's position and concept of a just and comprehensive peace were announced very clearly in Geneva, and that the moment of truth has come for Israel to respond to the voice of peace, which was announced again from Geneva.

The Syrian official was speaking after President Hafiz al-Asad's return from Geneva the night before last after his historic meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton. Tahir al-Masri, speaker of the Jordanian House of Representatives, said the meeting is as important as the Madrid conference from which the peace process was launched. Maybe in this context, too, Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi spoke to the Syrian president over the telephone to agree to hold a summit in Damascus, to be attended from the Lebanese side—in addition to President al-Hirawi—by Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, and Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the peace delegation to the negotiations with Israel.

A Lebanese presidential source told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that President al-Asad has asked Lebanese officials to wait two days, to allow him to rest after his journey to and from Geneva. He will receive them later. However, the source said that, if something happens and delays this Lebanese-Syrian summit, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' will visit Beirut to brief officials on the results of the Geneva summit, and the summit would then be held later in Damascus.

On the significance of the Geneva summit, the Syrian official told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the U.S. Administration's renewal of its commitment—openly and clearly—and its intention to do all it can to achieve a just and comprehensive peace, is another reason for the optimism about achieving the desired peace. However the official said that this peace is still surrounded by caution, because Israel has not yet expressed its intentions regarding commitment to this peace. It is still maneuvering, claiming it does not understand the peace proposed by Syria.

The official said: How can the United States, in particular its President, and the world as a whole understand and support what Syria has proposed with regard to peace, while Israel still has not understood the Syrian view? Does that not indicate that Israel is still acting stubbornly by refusing to accept a peace based on the known foundations endorsed by the resolutions of international legitimacy?

The Syrian official pointed out that Syria, which adhered to full sovereignty over the Golan, also clearly adheres to a complete Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon. This applies also to Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Palestinians' rights. This was stressed by President Hafiz al-Asad during his talks with President Clinton in Geneva. The summit reflected a full U.S. understanding of the Syrian view. [passage omitted]

Geneva Summit Said 'Rare Opportunity' for Peace

JN1801151794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1237 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The entire world has welcomed the results of the summit held by Presidents al-Asad and Clinton in Geneva, calling this summit a decisive turning point on the path to a just and comprehensive Middle East peace.

In their statements and news conference, the two presidents emphasized an real, honorable peace based on the Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace principle. A real, honorable peace is one that ends occupation and secures rights for their owners, one that can be accepted by the present generation and safeguarded by coming generations.

President al-Asad explained that peace is not a phased Syrian objective but rather a strategic Syrian choice. He also called for the peace of the brave. For his part, President Clinton announced his support for President al-Asad's call to achieve the peace of the brave.

Politicians, observers, and media circles throughout the world are unanimous in saying that Syria has opened the door for peace and has completely paved the way for a just, lasting, and comprehensive solution. They are also unanimous in stating that the ball is now in Israel's court and that Israel should prove in practical terms that it seeks peace by responding to the outcome of the Geneva summit. Indeed, U.S. envoys flew to Israel directly from this Swiss city, the scene of this year's event, in order to explore the extent of Israel's response to the outcome of this summit.

It is now clear to everyone throughout the world that Syria has lived up to the level of the world's aspirations for a firmly-established peace in the Middle East, that Syria has made far more contributions to the cause of peace than the other party, and that peace would have been achieved in the region had it been up to Syria alone. However, peace cannot be established without Israel's response, which it has yet to give. In the Washington talks, Israel employed maneuvers and procrastination to create a drain at these talks. Moreover, both the overall peace process and the U.S. initiative were almost undermined by the conclusion of separate deals. All the events and developments have confirmed that such deals are far away from peace.

In view of such a decisive meeting as the Geneva summit, which yielded results drawing support throughout the world, Israel has found no other way to evade these results but to cast doubts on Syria's peaceful position, invoke feeble security pretexts, and call for an Israeli referendum on the Golan issue as if the Golan has not always been Syrian territory and as if the Israelis can cancel the facts of history and geography.

President al-Asad announced at the Geneva summit that 1994 can be a year of peace in the Middle East if the Israeli rulers are courageous enough to respond to the peace of the brave. No doubt, he was hinting at the Israeli rulers' known prevarications, evasions, and procrastination. The Israeli rulers have wasted numerous opportunities to establish a firm and comprehensive peace in the region. However, the Geneva summit provided a unique and rare opportunity that will definitely be lost if the Israeli rulers do not rise to the level of the cause of peace, the international community's aspirations, the Security Council resolutions, and the principles of international law. This opportunity will also be lost if these rulers do not realize that full withdrawal from the Golan is essential in implementing the Security Council resolutions, and that they should end all settlement activities and honestly respond to the requisites of a just and comprehensive Middle East peace.

The Golan is Syrian territory and will remain so. It will never be bargained over. Occupation cannot change or undermine the Syrian Arab identity of the Golan. Israel's procrastination will not yield any result other than wasting this rare opportunity, which the Geneva summit has provided, and dashing the world's hopes for a firm peace in the region.

Israeli Summit Reaction, Referendum Talk Decried

JN1901123894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Press review]

[Text] A commentary by the newspaper TISHRIN addresses reactions to the Geneva summit, saying: Politicians, observers, and political analysts were unanimous that Syria has clearly and favorably responded to all peace requirements, and that the Geneva talks have opened all the doors for a true, just, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. The appeal President al-Asad has made, urging Israeli rulers to accept the peace of the brave, and to make efforts to achieve comprehensive and just peace in the region puts Israel to the test, particularly since U.S. President Bill Clinton has declared his support for this appeal by President al-Asad. Similarly, the U.S. president has clearly committed himself to work to achieve just and comprehensive peace on the basis of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

TISHRIN adds: The Geneva summit has paved the way for a durable peace in the Middle East. However, the materialization of such a peace is contingent upon a positive position on Israel's part. But, Israeli rulers have chosen to cast doubts, voice reservations, and float the idea of holding a referendum on the future of the Golan, as if it were not occupied Syrian territory.

TISHRIN goes on to say: The game of referendum on the Golan, which is ostensibly backed by Rabin, is opposed by many. This game is designed to circumvent the summit outcome and the categorical Syrian-U.S. reaffirmation of efforts to achieve just peace in the Middle East. It is a declaration of intent meant to evade the requirements of the peace desired by the international community.

Concluding its commentary, TISHRIN says: President al-Asad has repeatedly affirmed, as he did during the Geneva summit, that there can be no bargaining over the Golan, and that Syria will not cede a single inch of its territory. For peace must terminate occupation. Otherwise, it will not have any chance of success. Moreover, Syria cannot abandon its territories or rights, nor can it bargain over them. As far as the Israeli rulers are concerned, peace is close at hand. They could help achieve it if they only have the necessary courage, as President al-Asad has, indeed, said during the Geneva summit.

For its part, the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The Washington bilateral talks will be resumed as a result of the Geneva summit between Presidents al-Asad and Clinton. Israel has again returned to the method of maneuvering to thwart the efforts to achieve the objective of the peace process, namely, the attainment of just and comprehensive peace on the basis of the relevant international legitimacy resolutions. Israel's return to the methods of maneuvering, procrastination, and word play is nothing new. It attempted to belittle the importance of the Geneva summit prior to its convocation through a deceptive media campaign. Right now, it is attempting to launch a similar campaign to dilute its outcome.

The paper adds: Israel's initial reaction to the summit outcome concerned the Golan. Israel has begun to promote the so-called referendum on the Golan under the guise of making concessions for peace.

The paper wonders: About which concessions is Israel talking? For only property owners have the right to make concessions. Does Israel own anything on the Golan? Since the answer is in the negative, Israel does not have the right to claim that it would be making any concessions for peace. Does the decision to annex the Golan, which was deemed null and void by UN resolutions, give Israel the right to make any such claims?

Concluding its commentary, the paper says: It is clear that Israel, which has found itself facing an impasse in the aftermath of the Geneva summit, still clings to intransigent positions on peace. Hence, the bilateral talks, due to resume soon, will test Rabin's true intentions. The international consensus on peace, which has been manifested in the reactions to the Geneva summit, is in line with the need to see stability in the region. It is believed that this consensus will not give Israel ample room for maneuvering.

In a commentary published today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: The Geneva summit between His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton is an extremely important event. It is a turning point in the region's history. Many convictions, misconceptions, and fallacies have been removed when faced with the glow of hard facts.

AL-THAWRAH adds: With an open heart and mind, al-Asad's Syria, backed by the entire nation, was in Geneva. Thanks to its weight, its special pioneering and historical role, and its constant determination to accomplish difficult pan-Arab missions, President al-Asad, the man of the hard missions who is always willing to make firm and tough decisions, has managed to entrench the constant Arab rights, and to make it clear that the achievement of a solution is contingent upon the restoration of such rights.

AL-THAWRAH goes on to say: The peace of the brave leader al-Asad has promoted at the Geneva summit is the height of loyalty to the sacrifices made by convoys of martyrs. It reflects Syria's desire for a just and honorable peace, as well as Syria's commitment to work to achieve peace. The appeal President al-Asad has made in this regard is a fresh challenge to Israeli politicians and rulers, who profess to be advocates of peace. Al-Asad has challenged them to adopt credible positions.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: If there is a sincere effort to achieve such a peace, there would be no room for differing interpretations. Any solution that falls short of ensuring the restoration of all occupied Arab territories cannot bring peace.

Al-Asad Receives Lebanese President, Others

JN1901145594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] At 1145 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, and Chief Lebanese Negotiator Suhayl Shammas.

Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Nasir Qaddur, the minister of state for foreign affairs, also attended the meeting.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Agrees to Interim Government

BK1801162294 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1609 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] President Borhanoddin Rabbani has expressed the confidence that peace and normalcy will return soon to Kabul. According to a wireless message received in the office of Nangarhar Shura [council] this evening, the president told a group of commanders which called on him again in the outskirts of Kabul today that he agrees to the proposal for setting up an interim government. He said he was willing to sacrifice his office in the best interest of the Afghan nation.

Talking to Radio Pakistan's representative in Peshawar today, a top aide of the Afghan prime minister said that Mr. Golboddin Hekmatyar and the Supreme Coordination Council composing parties opposed to the president is prepared to work for the early return of peace and normalcy to Kabul.

Meanwhile, the chief of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan] Khales group, Mowlvi Muhammad Younes Khales, told Afghan Islamic Press in Peshawar that leaders of all mojahedin groups should sit together to find out a solution to [word indistinct] end crisis.

Rabbani 'Willing To Negotiate' Cease-Fire

PM1401112694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Jan 94 pp1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Afghan President Offers Conditional Cease-fire"]

[Text] Kabul, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Afghan interim President Borhanoddin Rabbani yesterday confirmed that he is willing to negotiate a cease-fire with his main adversary Golboddin Hekmatyar provided the latter breaks off his alliance with Uzbek militia leader 'Abdol Rashid Dostam. Rabbani has also offered to resign as leader of Jami'at-e Eslami [Islamic Society of Afghanistan] in favor of former Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud.

According to unconfirmed reports, Rabbani had in the beginning wanted to resign from his official post and also leave the country but Mas'ud prevented him from doing so and the interim president is now under Mas'ud's protection in one of the latter's strongholds in the capital. A spokesman for Rabbani, however, has denied that he wanted to flee or that he is now Mas'ud's prisoner. Rabbani yesterday appeared briefly outside Kabul to receive Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's envoy.

Rabbani's cease-fire offer was made through a Pakistani mediator who later met with Hekmatyar at his headquarters some 30 km from Kabul, but Hekmatyar, who is interim prime minister until 21 March, rejected Rabbani's offer and swore to continue the fighting "until the downfall of those who seized power illegally." The two sides yesterday threw everything they had into the battle for Kabul, targeting hospitals, schools, mosques, and market places as part of a strategy to terrorize the population.

Five of Kabul's 11 districts are under the control of the pro-Rabbani forces, three under the control of the Shiites who are allied with Iran, and only one under the control of the Uzbeks. Control of the remaining two districts south and east of the capital changed hands several times in the current battles. Sources close to Mas'ud say that he is confident that he can drive the Uzbeks out of their Bala Hesar stronghold.

A spokesman for Dostam, however, said yesterday that the Uzbeks in that area had enough arms and ammunition to "wipe out half of Kabul" before surrendering.

He added that "Mas'ud has seen nothing yet. We can blow him up along with everything he controls in the capital." The two camps launched air attacks particularly on civilian targets in the capital and surrounding areas. Elsewhere in the country the situation was relatively calm with the exception of some sporadic fire in Mazar-e Sharif, the country's second largest city.

The forces dispatched by Mas'ud and his ally Isma'il Khan, governor of Herat, to attack the Uzbeks in the north have made major advances without any significant resistance. That may be because Dostam does not have enough forces to fight on three fronts or it may be that he wants to lure the forces of Mas'ud and his ally into his own territory before attacking them.

Military Commanders Seek End to Fighting

LD1901120894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Clashes among belligerent groups in some areas of Afghanistan are still continuing, but according to reports a 15 member council comprising military commanders from the jihadi parties have started extensive efforts to end the fighting. Here is our colleague with the latest Afghan developments.

[Correspondent, reporting from Peshawar] Despite the reduction in the severity of the battles in Kabul, reports coming from northern Afghanistan indicate that there has been heavy fighting between the forces supporting and opposing the president in Kondoz and Samangan provinces. Sources affiliated to the Jami'at-e Eslami [Islamic Society] say that in those two areas they have achieved some victories and are preparing for a new assault against Mazar-e Sharif.

On the other hand Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] sources said today that forces opposing the government have taken the town of Qal'eh-Zal in Kondoz Province and are advancing toward the important city of Shir Khan Bandar.

Meanwhile a 15 member delegation comprising military commanders from five Afghan jihadi parties, which met with Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar in *Charasyab, has stated that the Jami'at-e Eslami* party has given it absolute authority to arbitrate and decide on the current fighting and the means to end it.

On the other hand Hezb-e Eslami sources stressed today that it and the other groups opposed to the government have categorically dismissed the principle of arbitration and decisionmaking by the aforementioned commanders. This came today when, according to reports in Jalalabad, the 15-member military commanders council from five jihadi parties, situated in the east of the Afghan capital, called on the warring sides in Kabul to cease fire from tomorrow morning and recall their forces from the battlegrounds in Kabul. The representatives of the Jabha-ye Nejat-e Meli-ye [National Liberation Front], Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party], Hezb-e Harakat-e Eslami [Islamic Movement Party] led by Ayatollah Mohseni, and the Mahaz-e Melli [National Front] party are not among the commanders who have put forward that proposal.

Meanwhile, Homayun Jarid, deputy leader of the Hezb-e Eslami, announced that a four member delegation from the government opposition front—the Afghan Coordination Council—will arrive in Peshawar today from Charasyab, 25 km south of Kabul, to meet and confer with the Pakistani foreign minister and other officials as well as a group of the Afghan jihadi group leaders.

Hekmatyar Rejects Proposal on Mediation Council

LD1801192094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1830 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan] has rejected a plan proposed by Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, that suggested a 15-member council should mediate between the warring factions in Afghanistan.

According to an IRNA report, the Hezb-e Eslami spokesman said: Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami considers this proposal as an effort to create a rift between Afghanistan's Jihadi groups.

Furthermore, the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-e [Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan] spokesman in Peshawar told IRNA: The resolution of the Afghan problem can only be accomplished by agreement among the four major parties in that country; that is Hezb-e Eslami, Hezb-e Wahdat, Jonbesh-e Shomal [the Northern Movement] and Rabbani's Jami'at-e Eslami [Islamic Society of Afghanistan].

Hekmatyar Accepts Bhutto as Talks Mediator

BK1401112794 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 14 Jan 94 p 1

[By Qaiser Butt; all quotation marks as published]

[Text] The Afghan prime minister, Eng. Gulab Din Hekmatyar, has said that he is ready to accept Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto as a mediator to settle his dispute with President Prof. Borhanoddin Rabbani. However, he made it clear that Rabbani would have to resign as the president of Afghanistan.

Hekmatyar who is also chief of the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] Afghanistan, expressed his willingness to respond in positive terms to Islamabad's reported initiative for the settlement of his dispute with President Rabbani, during an interview with THE FRONTIER POST, at his stronghold Charasyab (four miles) in Kabul on Wednesday [12 Jan].

To a question about the war situation in Kabul, Hakmatyar said that his men had inflicted heavy losses on the Rabbani forces. "War will continue till President Rabbani accepts our four demands", he declared.

Hekmatyar is demanding the resignation of President Rabbani, with the offer that he would also reciprocate. The second demand pertains to the establishment of an interim government in Kabul which, he said should replace the government of President Rabbani. "The proposed interim government should be acceptable to all the Afghan parties", Hekmatyar explained. The interim government, he demanded, should raise a national army within six months and all the Afghan parties should surrender their arms and ammunition to the ministry of defence.

"The interim government should hold general elections as soon as the national army is raised", is the fourth demand of Hekmatyar to end the ongoing war in Kabul and other parts of the country.

Hekmatyar further said that he would not seek any office in the proposed interim government. "I am not interested in the prime minister's office nor do I want to be the president", Hekmatyar added. "I will not accept anything, but elections.

He rejected the allegations that he was responsible for the on-going war and said that president Rabbani was responsible for it who, he said, was trying to have a one-party system in Afghanistan. "It is not only the Hezb-e Eslami fighting against president Rabbani's Jami'at-e Eslami [Islamic Society] and his former defence minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's Shoora-e Nazar."

The Hezb-e Wahdat [Islamic Unity Party] of Ayatollah Mazari and Junbish-e Milli of Gen. Rashid Dostam are also the two major parties fighting against Rabbani and

Mas'ud. Hekmatyar said adding "The Hezb-e Wahdat and Junbish-e Milli had been a part of Rabbani's set-up till last month.

Replying to a question about the allegations by President Rabbani that communists were helping Hekmatyar in the war, the Afghan premier said that by saying so Rabbani had weakened his own case. "It is a known fact that Gen. Rashid Dostam whom Rabbani was now calling as a communist had been one of his close associates in government for 20 months. "Rabbani himself declared that Gen. Dostam and other communists were part of the Islamic army." Rabbani visited Gen. Dostam five times during his 20-month rule. "It is also a known fact that a top communist general Momin who was killed in war was fighting from Rabbani's side.

Hekmatyar said that Rabbani could not mislead the people of Afghanistan merely with such propaganda as everyone in and around Afghanistan was aware that all the top communists of Afghanistan such as Babtak Karmal, Gen Nabi Azeemi, Mahm'ud Bityali, Gen Baba Jan, Farid Mazdak and Kavyani were masterminding the policies of Rabbani's government.

Giving datails of his differences with president Rabbani which ultimately led to the current bloody war in Afghanistan, the Afghan prime minister said that Rabbani was suppossed to hold general elections in six months after becoming the president of the country under the Islamabad accord.

"I had to accept the office of the prime minister under the Islamabad accord despite my reservations but Rabbani did not honour the accord even for a single day. He did not hand over the prime minister's secretariat to me and the secretariat building continued to remain under the control of Jami'at-e Eslami fighters. President Rabbani rejected all the decisions taken by my cabinet without any reason. The cabinet decision that Afghan currency will no longer be printed in Moscow was not implemented by president Rabbani for the reason that Moscow was keen on helping him with this currency. All such Afghan currency was printed without any reserves as Rabbani joined Moscow to destroy the Afghan economy. Rabbani failed to restore peace in Afghanistan during his 20 month rule in Kabul as was expected by him. "Kabul suffered 25 big fights during his rule", Hekmatyar said.

He added: "On our requests Pakistan, Iran and Saudi Arabia asked Rabbani to let the Islamabad accord be implemented but he did not listen to anyone. He refused to listen to all of those who wanted the return of peace to Afghanistan."

Hekmatyar also said that president Rabbani during his 20 month rule continuously instigated one party against the other. He formally asked Gen Rashid Dostam to attack Hezb-e Eslami but he refused. "Rabbani depended on Gen Dostam to perpetuate his illegal rule but he refused to be a party with him any more when he realised that Rabbani was trying to have one party rule in Afghanistan. "Rabbani praised Gen. Dostam so long as he was with him but as soon as he refused to be a tool in his hands he declared him as a communist. Rabbani is on record as having said on several occasions that Gen Dostam played a key role in the removal of communist president Gen Najibollah," he said.

Hakmatyar added: "It was Rabbani who failed to keep his allies. Hezb-e Wahdat, Junbish-e Milli [the National Movement] and Afghan National Liberation Front [ANLF] of Prof. Sibghatollah Mojaddedi with him as he did not fulfill the promises he made with them."

He said that Hezb-e Eslami was the first to realise that Rabbani and Mas'ud were playing in the hands of the communists. Hekmatyar said this while giving details of the formation of a combined force with Hezb-e Wahdat, Junbish-e Milli and ANLF.

Hezb joined us when its leadership realised that Rabbani was responsible for instigating Hazara tribe against the Pukhtoons, Uzbeks against the Pukhtoons, and Shlee against Sunnis. "Similar were the feelings of Gen Dostam when he also decided to be with us against Rabbani and Prof. Sigbhatollah Mojaddrdi agreed with all of us". Hekmatyar said that the current conflict would prove as the final round of war in Kabul against those who were not willing to honour the rule of people.

Iranian Envoy to Afghanistan Cited on Talks

NC1501070594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 15 Jan 94

[Telephone report by correspondent Darestani from Islamabad]

[Text] After meeting with the conflicting sides in Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic's special envoy to Afghanistan has returned to Peshawar, Pakistan.

During his three-day visit to Kabul, Taherian conveyed a verbal message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani and handed a written message from Foreign Minister Velayati to Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar. He also held talks with Mazari, secretary general of the Hezb-e Wahdat [Islamic Unity Party] and the high-ranking representative of Afghanistan's national-Islamic movement in Kabul.

In an interview this morning, he stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran is doing its best to bring together the heads of the conflicting sides in order to achieve understanding and that it is giving attention to consultations with our neighbors in this. The Islamic Republic's special envoy to Afghanistan added:

[Begin Taherian recording] Following the contacts, the conflicting sides agreed to name representatives, who will start meeting as soon as possible. But it may be too soon yet to make any assessment of this. We intend, God willing, to continue our efforts aimed at achieving results and we hope that, God willing, we will achieve something specific. [end recording]

Taherian said in conclusion that in continuation of his mission he will start meetings with Pakistani officials today so that views can be exchanged between officials of the two countries on how to end the battles in Afghanistan and to promote understanding among the conflicting sides.

Factions Reject Pakistani Peace Initiative

PM1801171794 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Jan 94 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Afghan Factions Reject Pakistani Initiative and Escalate Fighting"]

[Excerpt] Kabul, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The warring Afghan factions yesterday rejected a Pakistani peace initiative and pledged to continue the fighting "until complete victory."

The aim of the Pakistani initiative, which was supported by the United States and Russia, was to make arrangements for an unconditional cease-fire to be followed by peace talks in Islamabad within one week.

A spokesman for 'Abdol Rashid Dostam said that there would be no cease-fire agreement before interim President Borhanoddin Rabbani resigns and leaves the country.

Interim Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar, whose Hezb-e Eslami Party and Dostam's Uzbek militias are now allies, supported Dostam's position.

There was no categorical rejection of the Pakistani initiative by the opposing side led by former Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, but a spokesman for Mas'ud said that Dostam would be excluded from any future talks and that Hekmatyar would be invited as a faction leader and not as interim prime minister.

There was fierce fighting in Kabul yesterday in which missiles and aircraft were used. [passage omitted]

Bangladesh

Dhaka Denies Indian Reports of ISI Activities

BK1701152894 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 17 Jan 94

[Text] A spokesman of the Foreign Office described Indian press reports as fabricated and motivated. The reports were published recently in a section of the Indian press and alleged that the Inter-Services Intelligence [ISI] of Pakistan is carrying out terrorist activities from Bangladeshi soil. Speaking in Dhaka today, he said these concocted reports were published in Indian newspapers at a time when both Bangladesh and India are making efforts to forge closer ties between them on the basis of mutual understanding. The spokesman said that such motivated news will obstruct the development of a cordial relationship between the two neighboring countries. He expressed the hope that they will refrain from creating this type of unrealistic propaganda.

India

Pakistani Call for Kashmir Plebiscite Viewed

BK1901130294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] New Delhi today categorically told Pakistan that it will not spare any effort to oppose moves against India's unity and territorial integrity. Rejecting the two nonpapers given by the Pakistan Foreign Office to the Indian high commissioner in Islamabad yesterday, New Delhi said the question of plebiscite in any part of India, including Jammu and Kashmir, simply does not arise. Terming the non-papers as Pakistan's propaganda, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that the exercise is an attempt to obscure the realities of the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that violence in the state is being created by militants and foreign mercenaries trained and equipped by Pakistan to erode the territorial integrity and political stability of India. Recalling New Delhi's repeated call upon Pakistan to desist from sponsoring trans-border terrorism, he said India has the will and the commitment of the people of Jammu and Kashmir to counter the violence generated by militants with external support.

U.S.-Pakistani Military Exercises Cause Concern

BK1801111594 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 8 Jan 94 p 1

[By M.K. Shukla]

[Text] New Delhi, Jan. 7—Armed forces of Pakistan and the U.S. have begun a five-week-long joint exercise in the rugged mountains north of Peshawar. The objectives include preparing both Pakistani and American troops for highly-specialised high-altitude warfare, say military experts here.

It is learnt that 150 U.S. commandos arrived in Islamabad on Thursday [January 6] to commence the exercises. Besides imparting training to their Pakistani counterparts, U.S. troops, too, will gain considerable experience in high-altitude warfare from these exercises, since the terrain chosen is ideal for this purpose.

Military observers in Delhi have expressed concern that the expertise gained by Pakistani troops from these exercises could have a bearing on the future of the Siachen dispute. However, it is learnt that last year also a similar joint exercise was conducted. Its continuance for a second year in succession is indicative of the U.S.'s growing military cooperation with Pakistan, experts say.

Highly-placed sources here said that the Americans have clarified that not many U.S. soldiers are participating in the mutual training scheme and too much significance should not be attached to the matter.

It has, however, been confirmed that troops belonging to certain special units of the U.S. Central Command will be taking part in the programme which is being conducted on the southern slopes of the mighty Hindukush ranges.

Sources here also revealed that the Chief of Army Staff, Gen B.C. Joshi, had advised his senior officers not to get unduly alarmed over this development. The Indian Air Force is also learnt to share this perception.

Yet, coming in the wake of a succession of anti-Indian statements from the Clinton Administration and given its clear "tilt" towards Pakistan in South Asian affairs, many officials in Delhi are understandably worried by the latest development which comes just after the failure of the Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan.

A source in the Army, however, discounted the possibility of Pakistan being able to overrun Indian positions in the Siachen glacier with the help of U.S. training. "We are considered Number One in high altitude warfare by one and all," he said.

He pointed out that past efforts by Pakistan to spring a surprise on Indian positions in Siachen (where temperatures range between 40 and 50 degrees below zero) had been effectively beaten back. Both the Pakistani army and air force got a bloody nose in their attempt to dislodge Indians from their militarily superior position on the glacier.

Military experts here feel that the joint high altitude exercise could, nevertheless, be mutually beneficial. The U.S. Army may be aiming for combat readiness for such warfare in view of changing geo-political realities in mountainous Central Asia.

Both Pakistan and the U.S. have a strong interest in the region in today's post-USSR scenario. The entire region has become volatile and politically unstable following the carving out of independent, mainly Islamic, republics. Clearly, the Americans see Central Asia as a potential trouble spot for the future and want to be in readiness to face any eventuality.

Officials 'Surprised' Not 'Disturbed'

BK1801134394 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 9 Jan 94 pp 1,24

[By Chandan Mitra]

[Text] New Delhi, 8 Jan.—External Affairs Ministry officials are surprised rather than disturbed over the US-Pak joint military exercises for high altitude warfare training. The five-week-long programme involving crack commandos of the U.S. Army has just begun near Peshawar.

"It is ironic that the U.S. is participating in this high altitude warfare training programme, which can only help the Pakistani Army gain more experience regarding the ongoing conflict over Siachen," a South Block source said. The irony is that the U.S. had quite recently urged India and Pakistan to end their stand off, offering even to underwrite a mutual withdrawal from the glacier.

It is learnt that the Clinton Administration had been pressing India to withdraw its forces from Siachen and come to an agreement with Pakistan. This was part of Washington's move to promote "confidence building measures" between the two countries.

Sources here revealed that the U.S. had gone so far as to say that it would provide the "necessary underpinnings" for de-escalation of the stand-off in Siachen. In plain terms, this meant that Washington was prepared to even monitor compliance to any agreement between New Delhi and Islamabad.

But any monitoring of the demilitarisation of Siachen by the U.S. would have involved the presence of foreign military personnel in Kashmir. This was not something India was prepared to accept. Interestingly Pakistan, too, is believed to have rejected the U.S. plan, making it clear that the problem would have to be resolved bilaterally.

MEA [Ministry of External Affairs] sources revealed that contrary to media reports, the Siachen dispute came up for discussion when India's Foreign Secretary Mr J.N. Dixit, met his Pakistani counterpart, Mr Shahryar Khan, in Islamabad earlier this month. It has been agreed that discussions would continue for the resolution of the problem, but both countries are against foreign intervention.

Indian officials say that although Kashmir itself is probably not high on Washington's diplomatic agenda worldwide, a series of statements and actions emanating from the U.S. Capital indicate that President Clinton has adopted a more activist posture with regard to South and Central Asia.

This has caused concern in the neighbourhood, which is clear from the recent Chinese statement opposing a "third option" (that is, independence) for Kashmir. Clearly, Beijing feels that the U.S. has some interest in floating the "third option" idea.

There is also considerable bewilderment here regarding the reasons for the U.S. Army to train itself for high altitude warfare. Indian officials are of the view that while the Central Asia angle cannot be ruled out, Americans would be foolhardy to even contemplate a military role, now or in the future, in this region.

At the same time, American intelligence agencies are learnt to be deeply involved in the Central Asia region, comprising former Soviet Republics. In a real life enactment of a John Le Carre type scenario, a former chief of the KGB in Afghanistan was murdered in mysterious circumstances recently.

Close on its heels, a CIA operative in Ukraine was shot dead allegedly by a drunken guard. Later it was discovered that the CIA man had been neatly shot through his neck at point blank range, which ruled out the "drunken guard" explanation.

Experts here say that despite the end of Cold War, the U.S. and Russia are currently engaged in a tussle for control over the Central Asian region. Russia's strategy is to ensure that any future military conflict, or even civil strife on its peripheries does not spill over into the Russian mainland. To achieve this aim, it wants to exercise some degree of control, through military presence is necessary, over its former republics. The CIS system has been designed precisely for this purpose.

The Americans, on the other hand, want to undermine Russian influence, first over the East European States and then on Central Asia. As part of this strategy, Washington is trying to rope in the East European States under the NATO umbrella. This has been strongly opposed by the Russians who fear that Western forces would be on their doorsteps if the NATO expansion plan succeeds.

Thus, the mounting American interest in Kashmir needs to be viewed in the larger global perspective, analysts in Delhi feel. The increasingly interventionist posture of the U.S., however, is putting immense pressure on India which is keen to resolve its problems with Pakistan through bilateral discussion.

"We understand each other's compulsions. For example, we realise that Ms. Benazir Bhutto has certain domestic reasons for her current belligerence. The Pakistanis, in turn, know that no Indian Government can possibly negotiate the status of Kashmir. It is, therefore, in our mutual interest to de-escalate conflict situations, so that no third party can seek to intervene," an official explained.

MEA officials also say that the recent Foreign Secretary-level talks in Islamabad have not been as much of a failure as initial reports suggested. They point to a statement by the Pakistan President, Mr. Farooq Leghari, in Karachi this week which commended the resumption of the dialogue and stressed that this must continue.

ISI Blamed for Trouble in Northeastern States

BK1601095894 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 15 Jan 94

[Text] The minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, said that there was a strong evidence of ISI's [Inter-Services Intelligence] involvement in terrorist acts in the country. He said the same forces are now creating trouble in the northeastern states by sneaking into the country from the Bangladesh border. Mr. Pilot was addressing a press conference in Hyderabad today. The minister said the gang whose members were arrested recently in connection with bomb blasts at several places was operating from Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Hyderabad. He said Dawood Ibrahim, who is the kingpin behind these incidents, is still at large and efforts are being made at all levels for his extradition.

The minister also took salute at the passing out parade of the 11th batch of assistant commandants of the Central Industrial Security Force.

Further on Protest to Dhaka

BK1901101594 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 13 Jan 94 p 1

[Text] India on Wednesday [12 January] protested to Bangladesh for allowing Pakistan's intelligence agency, Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), to operate from its soil, even as a high-power delegation led by Home Secretary N.N. Vohra was currently in Nepal canvassing for cooperation to strengthen border vigilance.

India's concern over the happenings in the neighbouring countries stems from reports that these are being used as conduits for pushing in arms and ammunition into the border areas.

In the case of Bangladesh, there is an additional problem of illegal immigration causing population explosion in the border districts of Bihar and West Bengal and social tensions in other areas, including Delhi.

The protest to Bangladesh was made by Prakash Singh, Director-General of Border Security Force (BSF), at the Indo-Bangladesh coordination meeting which concluded here on Wednesday.

The Bangladesh delegation was led by Mohammad Anwar Hossain, Director-General, Bangladesh Rifles.

Prakash Singh raised the issue of illegation [as published] immigration from Bangladesh and insisted on the implementation of the September 1991 agreement between the two countries.

He conveyed the Government's strong feelings on the subject of assistance to insurgent groups from the North-East in Bangladesh.

Reliable sources said the Bangladesh delegation contested the BSF chief's arguments. It reportedly argued that India had pushed many people into Bangladesh merely on the suspicion of their being illegal immigrants.

As a consequence, the meeting did not yield any clue to solving the burning problem of illegal immigration.

However, there was agreement on two issues: one, that the undemarcated 50 kms of Indo-Bangladesh border be demarcated at the earliest, and the other that the work of repair and maintenance of boundary pillars along the international border should be taken over by the security forces of the two countries.

It was decided that the two security forces would be requesting their respective governments to issue directions to surveyors-general to complete the demarcation of the boundary.

In this context, the dispute in the Mahurichar area was also discussed. India's argument was that on the basis of Indo-Bangladesh agreement of 1974 the boundary in this area was along the course of Mahuri river.

On the other hand, Bangladesh insisted that the cultivation on the Indian side should be stopped. India did not favour this proposal saying that the 1974 agreement related to alignment of the border and not utilisation of land on either side.

Given this background it was obviously only as a matter of courtesy that the two sides agreed that the security forces of both sides should exercise utmost restraint and that they should coordinate their efforts to curb smuggling and other criminal activities along the border.

The Vohra-led delegation is visiting Nepal after a thorough on-the-spot study of the situation in the border districts of Bahraich and Maharajgan in UP [Uttar Pradesh].

Vohra had convened a meeting of top officials of these two districts as well as those of Siddharath Nagar, Pilibhit and Gonda districts. He personally visited several checkposts in the border areas along with heads of intelligence agencies.

The Government has been concerned about the influx of Punjab extremists in UP.

Iran

Rafsanjani Receives Pakistani Army Chief

BK1901031294 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has stressed the need for cooperation between Iran and Pakistan for the resolution of regional conflicts. During a meeting with visiting Pakistani Chief of Army Staff General Abdul Waheed in Tehran yesterday, the Iranian president highlighted the importance of exchanging views to find ways and means to help resolve the disputes in Afghanistan and occupied Kashmir. The Iranian president also proposed promoting bilateral economic and cultural ties and expanding mutual cooperation to ensure border security and to check narcotics smuggling. Gen. Waheed expressed support for Hashemi- Rafsanjani's proposal for mutual cooperation to ensure border security and checking narcotics smuggling.

Velayati Returns From ICO Geneva Session

NC1901075694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati, who had travelled to Geneva to participate in the session of foreign ministers, members of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] contact group on Bosnia-Herzegovina, returned to Tehran this morning.

After the session and during the last few hours of his stay in Geneva, Dr. Velayati met Dr. Nakajima, the director general of the World Health Organization [WHO], and Madame Ogata, the head of the UN High Commission for Refugees [UNHCR].

Dr. Velayati and Dr. Nakajima discussed the need for the WHO to provide health and medical facilities to the people of Azerbaijan and Afghanistan. They also reviewed establishing a medical services and training center to be financed by the WHO.

In his meeting with the head of the UNHCR, Dr. Velayati stressed the need to provide assistance and detailed the essential services required by the Azerbaijani refugees and the welfare and hygiene facilities extended by the Islamic Republic of Iran to over 50,000 Azerbaijani refugees.

During their meeting, Madame Ogata praised the facilities provided by Iran to the Azerbaijani and Afghan refugees and described them as very important.

Velayati Urges More Help for Azeri Refugees

LD1901112794 Tehran IRNA in English 0754 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 19, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Tuesday underlined the need for providing further relief supplies to Azeri regugees. Velayati made the remark in a meeting in Geneva with World Health Organization (WHO) Director General Hiroshi Nakajima and head of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Ms. Sadako Ogata.

Velayati was in Geneva to take part in the meeting of foreign ministers of the contact group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

Pointing to the measures Iran has so far made to provide over 50,000 Azeri refugees with health care and welfare facilities, the Iranian minister called on the U.N. officials to pay further attention to the health of the refugees in Azerbaijan, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Ms. Ogata termed Iran's relief supplies to Azeri and Afghan refugees as significant and appreciated the Islamic Republic's hospitable attaitude towards the refugees,

Velayati concluded his Geneva talks and arrived here this morning.

Turkmen Foreign Minister: Niyazov's Visit 'Fruitful'

LD1801181394 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 18, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs, Mahmud Va'ezi, and the visiting Turkmen Foreign Minister, Khalykberdy Atayev, discussed the latest development in the region here Tuesday.

Atayev described as fruitful the visit to Iran of Turkmen President, Saparmurad Niyazov, earlier this month and said that the visit will have significant impact on promotion of Tehran-Ashgabat ties.

Va'ezi and Atayev emphasized implementation of agreements between Iran and Turkmenistan signed during Niyazov's visit.

Atayev is here to take part at the seminar on the process of development in Central Asia and Caucasus which opened in Tehran on Monday [17 January].

Majles Approves Bill on Accords With Turkmenistan

LD1901173294 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Excerpt] According to a report by a Central News Unit correspondent, in an open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles today chaired by Deputy Majles Speaker Rowhani, a bill on a cultural, scientific, and educational agreement between the governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkmenistan was approved. [passage omitted]

Afghan Foreign Minister on Need For Cease-Fire

LD1901140694 Tehran IRNA in English 1225 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 19, IRNA—The visiting Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Jalil Shams here Wednesday said that recent clashes in Afghanistan mostly resembled a coup d'etat. The Afghan official is currently here for the international seminar on the process of development in Central Asia and the Caucasus. He told IRNA that incompetency of jihad groups in establishing order and security and improving economic and administrative condition had added to the people's dissatisfaction.

The Afghan official further noted that warring sides should declare ceasefire and search for solutions to their differences through negotiation. Otherwise, he stressed, the Afghan people would suffer heavy financial and human losses. He dismissed some analysis that the recent war had an ethnic nture and said it was merely a struggle for gaining power. Shams stressed the need for international assistance to reconstruct his war-devastated country.

Va'ezi: National Security, Regional Stability Linked

LD1801133994 Tehran IRNA in English 1206 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 18, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mahmud Va'ezi said on Tuesday that Iran saw its national security integrated with the establishment of stability and calm in the region.

Speaking at the international seminar on the process of development in Central Asia and Caucasus, Va'ezi also said the Islamic Republic was closely monitoring political, social and economic developments in Central Asian and Caucasian republics.

It is the duty of all countries to contribute to the reconstruction of Central Asian countries, the deputy foreign minister said.

According to Va'ezi, ethnic disputes, civil war and conflicts with other countries constitute a major impediment to the economic development of Central Asian and Caucasian republics.

In order to enable those countries to export their gas and oil, the Islamic Republic has allowed them to use Iranian ports along the Persian Gulf, he said, adding that "this is very important and decisive."

He said the republics of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan can transport their oil and gas to other countries via Iran.

The volume of trade between Iran and those countries have reached 300 million dollars, Va'ezi said, adding "this is good for the beginning."

Amphibious Maneuvers Continue in Persian Gulf

LD1901123194 Tehran IRNA in English 1153 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Bushehr, Jan. 19, IRNA—The amphibious maneuvers of operational units of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), code named 'Martyr Raisali Delvari' continued in the waters of the northern Persian Gulf here Wednesday.

The four-day maneuvers, started last Monday, aim at achieving the pre-determined objectives and improving the combat power of the IRGC forces.

Units of the air force of the Islamic Republic army are also participating in the maneuvers.

PRC Envoy, Cooperatives Minister View Cooperation

LD1901151394 Tehran IRNA in English 1455 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 19, IRNA—Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Tehran, Hua Liming, in a meeting with Minister of Cooperatives Gholam Reza Shafe'i here Wednesday briefed him on operation of China's cooperatives and economic development plans.

The two sides also discussed economic issues and growth indices of China after introduction of market economy as well as Tehran-Beijing industrial ties.

Shafe'i called for further cooperation between the two countries in cooperative related affairs and exchange of experiences and informations on privatization of economic and industrial institutes.

Paris Embassy Denies Sending Letter Bomb to Sweden

LD1901095594 Tehran IRNA in English 0714 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Paris, Jan. 19, IRNA—Iran's Embassy here Tuesday denied allegations on having sent an explosive letter to an Iranian residing in Sweden and termed it "banal propaganda".

In a statement the embassy said the allegations are mere lies fabricated by counterrevolutionary terrorist groups.

The embassy also said that futility of the allegations will become further clear to all when it is asked how it could be possible that the sender of such a letter writes down his address on the back of the envelope?

The statement stressed that it was time for the French public opinion to deliberate on the presence of terrorist groups who have repeatedly committed terrorist acts in France and abroad.

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE (AFP) in a report from Stockholm Monday quoted the city police sources that a 45-year-old Swedish of Iranian origin was injured the same day due to the explosion of a letter sent to his wife.

According to the AFP report police sources declined to identify the injured, introduced as an opponent of the Islamic Republic of Iran. It also added that they did not have any idea about the point of departure and exact type of the explosive. However the same sources claimed the letter it was sent from the Iranian Embassy in Paris.

KEYHAN Criticizes Egypt's Overtures to Tehran

Egypt's Representative in Kerman

NC1801135094 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 5 Jan 94 p 14

[Text] The head of the office in charge of Egypt's interests in Iran declared Egypt's willingness to expand relations and industrial and agricultural cooperation with Iran.

Dr. Faraj met the Kerman governor general on Sunday [2 January] and said that in view of the many common denominators between Iran and Egypt and past cultural ties, cordial relations between the two countries could foster bilateral cooperation in the industrial and agricultural fields.

He expressed the hope that by forging ties with Iran, Egypt could further expand its relations with the Central Asian countries. He announced that Egyptian investors were willing to upgrade economic relations with Iran.

Kerman Governor General Seyyed Hoseyn Mar'ashi elaborated on the potential resources of Kerman Province especially with regard to agricultural production in pistachios, dates, citrus fruits, and in the mineral industries.

It is worth mentioning that in the past few years, the Egyptian Government has made extensive efforts to eliminate obstacles in the path of relations with Iran. The Egyptian regime's desire for relations with Iran stems from the fact that the Islamic Revolution of Iran has emerged as a model and a legend in the minds of Egypt's revolutionary youth. By establishing relations with Iran, the cradle of the Islamic Revolution, Egypt will strive to shatter this pattern and legend and to harm it.

Of course, in conjunction with these efforts, the Egyptian Government continues to express its malice and hostility from time to time and to level accusations against Iran. The Egyptian Government also continues to instigate the regional governments of the Persian Gulf against the Islamic Republic of Iran by pursuing active diplomacy in this regard.

Commentary on Diplomatic Activity

NC1901075194 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 6 Jan 94 p 2

[Commentary by M. Shahidi: "The Confines of Diplomatic Activity"]

[Text] It is a well-known adage that when one is given permission to enter the village, one goes straight to the fellow in charge! In our age this common proverb can be applied to the great Government of Egypt! Recently, the head of the office in charge of Egypt's interests in Tehran met the Kerman governor general and expressed the hope that Egypt could further expand its relations with the Central Asian countries, by forging relations with Iran.

Apart from this remark by Dr. Faraj, which seems to be in jest, more than anything else, certain questions come to mind. However, before answering these questions, it is important to mention that propounding such proposals which have a completely political bias should, in principle, be presented through the proper channels of the Foreign Ministry. How did the head of the office in charge of Egypt's interests in Iran surface in Kerman Province and what possible synchronicity could exist between his political activities and that of the Kerman Province and why was such a proposal tendered to the governor general?

If such a proposal had been submitted to the Mazandaran governor general it could be understandable in principle, as Mazandaran Province is contiguous to one of the newly independent Central Asian republics. This could be viewed as a plausible antecedent and would have generated fewer questions. The following points may be noted in the margin of this meeting and suggestions provided:

1. According to diplomatic norms, the head of the office in charge of the interests of other countries should be a citizen of a third country that has been assigned to safeguard that country's interests when relations have been severed. He is supposed to act in the name of that country to preserve these interests and the flag of the third country is flown over the office. The head of this office is also permitted to meet with the host country's officials in the presence of the third country's ambassador.

In view of the above, the question arises that within all these legal restrictions, how did the head of the office for Egyptian interests suddenly show up in Kerman Province and manage to meet with the governor general? If on the basis of some agreement, these restrictions have been lifted, is the official in charge of the office of Iran's interests in Cairo enjoying similar freedom for diplomatic, economic, and cultural activity?

According to some who have visited the office for Iranian interests in Cairo, its activities are extremely limited and the head of the office is not given permission to meet the higher officials of the Foreign Ministry. He is not even invited to the official receptions that are hosted by that country. All this is in addition to the security problems for the office of Iranian interests in Cairo, which he faces due to the heavily policed situation in the Cairo regime.

2. The topic that comes to the minds of readers of this report is: What is the common factor between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the anti-Islamic Government of Egypt, that the head of its interests office was permitted to meet a governor general of a province far removed from the center?

Is this not the same Egypt that has surpassed all the tyrants and pharaohs of history in its suppression of active Islamic movements and its killing of the oppressed Egyptian people?

On the other hand, according to existing reports, the Cairo regime is the main base for promonarchical Iranians and the radio station of these elements affiliated with the former regime is located in Cairo and broadcasts programs from there at specific times.

In addition, we wish to remind the head of the Egyptian interests office in Iran, for his information, that:

First, he is quite well aware of our country's position with regard to his government and in view of the "complete severance of relations" between the two countries, such proposals stem from his political immaturity.

Second, the phenomenon of the so-called "Islamic fundamentalism" in the Central Asian countries has not reached a level whereby it has to be suppressed with the help of "foreign intervention" and by utilizing Egypt's "valuable experience" in this regard! Therefore, it would be preferable if the Cairo government is advised to use its experience to surmount the problems of its own domestic situation which have stifled the very breath of its regime.

This is because, according to existing information, President Husni Mubarak has been greatly perturbed by the cresting of the Islamic movement in recent months and the assassinations of those criminals whose hands are stained with the blood of the Egyptian nation. If he is looking for a scapegoat for a way out of this predicament, tell him "to look elsewhere."

Third, if—in the past few months—the enrapturing whiffs of the zephyr which blows in Tehran have made you so delirious that you are voicing such crude proposals, we declare, for your information and for that of the government of Cairo, that nothing has changed and the former position prevails with the same intensity, especially since in the last few months efforts are being made to place the filthy mantle of Camp David onto the oppressed Palestinian nation and to find a way to prevent the defeat of the ill-omened Gaza- Jericho accord.

Radio, TV Officials on New Efforts in Broadcasting

LD1901120294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Mr. Mohammad Hashemi, the head of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran [radio and television organization—IRIB], today addressed the seminar of the heads of news sections in IRIB's provincial centers. He said: The truth-seeking minds throughout the world are the targets and recipients of the message of the Islamic revolution. By playing a more active role in the international system of information, we will try to respond to cultural needs.

The head of IRIB then referred to the rapid global developments in the sphere of communications and information during the present era when technology is enjoying progress and the nations are awakening. He said: In view of the nations' growing inclination towards Islam and idealism, the present cultural vacuum and the intellectual crisis felt across the world, and finally the vast amount of propaganda against the Islamic system, it is clear that the responsibilities of the radio and television, as the largest media, are very grave.

He stressed that IRIB enjoyed potential talents and capabilities which could be utilized in a more efficient way so as to expand the sphere of present activities. He then said that the operation of the 3d [TV] network and the Radio News were part of the new efforts aimed at accelerating the process of news and information broadcasting, and filling the society's leisure time.

According to our correspondent's report, today's meeting continued with an address by Mr Hemmati, the deputy head of IRIB in charge of political affairs. He referred to the change in attitudes towards radio and television, and underlined the inevitable need to change the system of news broadcasting in order to create a greater momentum in the society, strengthen incentives and mobilize the population to participate in the reconstruction process.

He said: By reliance on its high level of expertise and capabilities, IRIB has formulated new plans for expanding field information gathering and broadcasting. He added: With the start of the Radio News, which will begin transmission during the blessed 10-day Fajr celebrations [the anniversary of the victory of Islamic revolution on 11 Feb 1979], the necessary means for speedy and regular transmission of news will be provided.

According to IRIB's deputy in charge of political affairs, the Radio News programs will be varied, and will cover sports, scientific, cultural, arts, economic, social and political news from Iran and abroad. He added: With the operation of this station, the people will be given more details on latest news and information.

Pakistan

Islamabad Proposes Talks Aimed at Plebiscite

BK1801141694 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] Pakistan has proposed to India that future bilateral talks should aim at finalizing the modalities for holding a plebiscite to ascertain the wishes of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The proposal was conveyed by the foreign secretary, Shaharyar M. Khan, to the Indian high commissioner, Mr. S.K. Lambha, in Islamabad today. Pakistan has also asked the Indian Government to take visible steps in the Indian-held Kashmir so that a propitious climate is created for the peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Pakistan has asked the Indian Government for an early response to the proposals, which are aimed at focussing on essential issues relating to Kashmir and to giving a meaningful and purposeful direction to the talks. Pakistan's high commissioner to India will hand over the proposal to the Indian foreign secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit, later today.

Spokesman Comments on Afghan Situation

BK1901120694 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that Pakistan attaches highest priority to providing humanitarian assistance to displaced people in Afghanistan due to continued fighting. Pakistan is making comprehensive arrangements to provide them adequate relief in collaboration with United Nations and other relief organizations. The spokesman said the Pakistan-Afghan border has never been sealed since the establishment of the mojahedin government in Afghanistan. He said according to the latest information, fighting in Kabul has been continuing with low intensity due to inclement weather. The situation in Mazar-e Sharif is, however, peaceful.

Bhutto Reiterates 'Peaceful Nuclear Program'

BK1501153594 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1500 GMT 15 Jan 94

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has said Pakistan firmly believes in going ahead with making a fuller peaceful use of atomic technology. She was presiding over the annual meeting of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Council in Islamabad today. The council reviewed the progress of work at different establishments of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission and considered the main lines of future programs of the commission which lay emphasis on self-reliance and indigenization.

Addressing the council, the prime minister said the Islamic, democratic and awami [people's] government fully supports achieving excellence and advancement of technology, be it simple or high technology. It was the elected prime minister, late Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, who had first started the atomic projects in Pakistan which are now being implemented. Late Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto had 25 years ago given an autonomous status to Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission and sought cooperation of the United States for support of PINSTECH [Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology] and other atomic projects. Now, the prime minister said, with Chinese cooperation her government is completing the Chashma Nuclear Power Plant after 25 years. There are some undue misgivings about our peaceful nuclear program, but we hope that Pakistan would very soon be able to allay these misgivings.

The prime minister expressed the determination to make Pakistan an enviable, progressive and developed state. She paid tributes to the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission scientists for working selflessly and single-mindedly without looking for award or name. The present government, after its takeover, especially marked one of its cabinet meetings for preparation and approval of the new technology policy. Despite financial constraints, the government earmarked an amount of 1 billion rupees for this purpose. She expressed the confidence that the new policy would lead the country toward rapid economic development. The present government is attaching high priority to the energy sector. Work at the 300-megawatt nuclear power plant acquired during 1988-90 would be completed soon. The prime minister complimented the commission on its performance and directed it to work with greater vigor for peaceful application of nuclear technology for socioeconomic uplift in the country.

Earlier, the prime minister was shown the indigenously redesigned and upgraded Pakistan Research Reactor-1 and the research facilities around it. The chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed, briefed the prime minister about the activities in pursuit of peaceful application of atomic energy.

Campaign Against Narcotics Intensified

BK1801145294 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] The government has stepped up its campaign against narcotics. Customs, intelligence, and police have conducted various successful raids across the country and seized huge quantities of narcotics, including heroin and charas, during the last one month.

In the biggest-ever haul in Lahore today, city police seized about 1.5 tonnes of morphine powder and arrested three drug couriers. The smuggling attempt was foiled last night in the Bund Road area. The material was being smuggled on a truck loaded with 497 drums; 50 of them were filled with morphine powder. The city policy chief said the three alleged drug couriers—namely Haji Nisar Khan, Akhtar Khan, and Javed Khan—were arrested while raids are being conducted to arrest Mahmud Butt and Mujadded Butt.

The recent antinarcotics drive is the result of the present government's resolve to eradicate the menace from its roots. The government has set the year 2000 as the target for complete eradication. It is one of the eight points given by the Pakistan People's Party in its election manifesto. A Narcotics Control Board and the Ministry of Law are working on a draft law which will enable the law enforcing agencies to act more effectively. Besides other measures, the government also plans to enhance its mass awareness campaigns.

Fifty tonnes of charas was seized recently when antinarcotics agencies and Pakistan Customs jointly carried out an operation at Makran coast. In the NWFP [North-West Frontier Province], 20 kg of heroin was seized recently when it was being smuggled from the tribal area to Peshawar for down-country dispatch. In another raid, 12 kg of heroin was seized at Azadi Chowk post; three persons were arrested. A large quantity of heroin and charas was also seized at different places in Balochistan.

Antinarcotics Efforts Criticized

BK1701094394 Islamabad THE NATION in English 17 Jan 94 pp 1, 4

["Special report" by Ayesba Haroon]

[Text] The seizure rate of heroin, opium and charas by the 12 Federal and provincial law-enforcing agencies, till June 1993, shows a sharp decline as compared to the corresponding period in 1992.

Lack of political will showed itself in poor allocations of finances to these agencies and a legal cover riddled with [word indistinct] and loopholes that gape so wide that entire battalions of offenders slip through them. A glaring legal omission being the jurisdiction of speedy law court does not cover FATA [Federally Administered Tribal Areas]—hot spots for drug production and trafficking.

The accumulative effect of the lopsided political will and a Swiss cheese legal set-up reflects in poor follow-up of registered cases, lower seizures, and a social climate that offers no resistance to narco money. Given the fact that around two-thirds of the heroin produced in Pakistan is consumed within the country and that the number of drug addicts is on the rise, reduced seizures do not mean that production or trafficking of narcotics has been curtailed—as some members of the Narcotics Control Division would have the public believe.

From 2,900 kilograms (kg) of heroin seized in 1992, the figure has fallen to 2,179 kgs in 1993. And when compared to 5,677 kgs of heroin seized in 1991, the quantity seized has more than halved. Number of cases registered have also fallen sharply—from 23,494 in 1992 to a mere 10,296 in 1993. Quantity of opium seized has also fallen by around 1000 kg. In 1992, 3,422 kgs of opium were seized, but the figure slid down to 2,421 kgs in 1993, and from 2,850 cases registered the number was reduced to 1,448 in 1993.

In the case of the charas, the quantity seized reduced from 188,123 kgs in 1992 to 138,097 kgs in 1993. While the number of cases registered in 1993 were 9,618 as compared to the 20,847 cases registered in 1993.

Successive governments tried to prove their commitment towards eradicating the drug menace by making all sorts of speeches. However, no-one worked to develop an effective legal framework to effectively check this menace. The caretaker government of Moin Qureshi, promulgated an Ordinance, whereby the death penalty would be awarded to the drug offenders: namely the Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Ordinance, 1993 whereby the assets of an accused awarded punishment lesser than life imprisonment are also liable to forfeiture.

The law against narcotics offences relating to trafficking provided for maximum punishment of life imprisonment. The government has decided to amend the law in order to award death sentence for the drug traffickers or financing the trafficking of narcotics or offences relating to import or export of drugs from Pakistan and interprovinces.

Narcotics offences are mainly dealt with under the following laws: The Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930; The Prohibition (Enforcement of Hadd) Order, 1979; The Customs Act, 1969; The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1989 (Act V of 1898); The Police Act, 1861; The Opium Act, 1957; The Opium Act, 1878; and The Anti-Narcotics Task Force Ordinance (XII of 1993).

There are 14 [as published] agencies on Federal and provincial level that are involved in the enforcement of the above-mentioned laws. Apart from the provincial police departments, provincial Excise Departments and the Frontier Constabulary of NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] all other law-enforcing agencies come under the ambit of the Federal Government. The services of the defence forces can also be utilised for the purposes whenever the Federal Government decides.

Given the fact that there is such a large number of varied agencies involved and seven different laws to deal with narcotics offences. It is not a wonder that a complete confusion prevails. An offence registered under the Hadd cannot be punishable by death penalty and an injunction of the speedy courts is not applicable to the federally and provincially administered tribal areas; while different laws apply to the carrier and to the offender who finances the trafficking.

Lack of efficient coordination between the various government agencies involved, the [word indistinct] inherent in partial application of the laws, coupled with the fact that money and political pressure can delay/change/erase the cases is used by the offenders to their maximum advantage. Also the Narcotics Control Board cannot spend the kind of money the offenders use while fighting legal cases against them. In one case, while the Ministry used around Rs [rupees] 3 lakh, the offenders spent a hefty Rs 33 lakh—and went scot-free.

Not only are the agencies short of manpower but the personnel is also not provided with adequate personal security to deal with dangerous offenders. While the agencies are unable to coordinate their actions, the drug barons are equipped with the advanced electronic gadgets for surfeiting the movement of the agencies.

The law-enforcing agencies have failed to control the smuggling of acetic anhydride, the chemical used in making heroin. Previously, it was imported in abnormal quantity but after its import was restricted, it started being smuggled in from India. Recently a group of Rangers was booked for smuggling the chemical from India.

In a bid to give a modicum of sanity to the to the mess, the President and the Prime Minister [PM] have asked for recommendations to formulate a national drug policy which contains a comprehensive legal package. It is stated to be a long-term policy. The PM's camp wants to make it a consensus legislation which would fetch them points both at home and abroad.

To restrict the inflow of drugs in their country the United States of America made clear its dissatisfaction regarding the performance of the local anti-narcotics agencies a few years back and announced the funding of a special tasks force. The Ordinance for the force was repeatedly promulgated and a number of officers from the services other than those involved in drug combat were selected, but the force could not take off.

However, according to sources, the Americans reduced their funding and in the second half of last year, the Army was asked to take over the proposed organisation. A serving general is now heading the force, which is still to commence active operations. Unless anti-drug operations are supported by the political will of the rulers, not much headway can be expected in combating this menace. There needs to be social uprising against the narco barons and their influence in political, bureaucratic and professional bodies must be exposed. Otherwise we will enter the 21st century drugged out of our senses.

Benazir, Nusrat Bhutto Agree to 'Cease-Fire'

BK1701154494 Karachi DAWN in English 17 Jan 94 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 16: Former Chairperson of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] Begum Nusrat Bhutto and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto have agreed on a "temporary ceasefire" until they work out an amicable solution to their differences.

PPP Parliamentary sources told Dawn that both the Bhutto ladies had decided to sort out their differences without involving anybody else and issuing statements against each other.

The PPP parliamentary party held a meeting at the Prime Minister's House on Sunday [16 Jan], which Begum Nusrat Bhutto was not at all expected to attend.

But, according to sources, everybody was surprised when she entered the hall where the meeting was about to begin. All the participants stood up and loudly said: "Welcome, welcome."

Begum Bhutto then went to the Prime Minister and kissed her. She also kissed Mr. Asif Ali Zardaris's forehead.

Begum Bhutto, the sources said, kept smiling during the meeting and exchanged pleasantries with the members. According to one member, she said how could she quarrel with her own daughter, specially when Mr. Nawaz Sharif and his colleagues were all out to take advantage of a family feud.

The sources said Begum Bhutto also briefly chatted with Mr. Shabbir Chandio, MNA [Member of National Assembly] from Larkana, and told him that she had decided to work out an amicable solution to differences with her daughter, without involving anybody else.

The sources said that the Prime Minister had a detailed meeting with President Farooq Leghari on Saturday [15 Jan] night and discussed with him Begum Bhutto's quarrel with her and her partymen. The President assured her that he would meet PPP's former chairperson after he returned from a tour of Saudi Arabia and try for a reconciliation between the Bhutto ladies.

The sources also termed it a ceasefire and according to Ms. Rukhsona Bungush private secretary to Begum Bhutto there would not be anything special for another "three or four-days." She was tightlipped when approached for further comment. She however, said: "Things are improving, you better wait."

The sources said the Prime Minister and Mr. Asif Ali Zardari drove to Begum Bhutto's house on Saturday night without any protocol. They stayed there for quite some time and discussed their differences on a number of issues.

Begum Bhutto reportedly broke into tears and embraced and kissed her daughter. She said she was not expecting the Prime Minister and her husband.

The sources claimed that there was a gradual thaw in relations but were the mother and the daughter.

"Both Begum Bhutto and Benazir Bhutto have ultimately realized that their differences could be exploited by the issueless Opposition led by Nawaz Sharif," a source said, claiming that a formula was being worked out for a permanent peace between them.

The entire press corps of the capital reached the Parliament building on Sunday just to have a first-hand report on the differences between the Bhutto ladies since Begum Bhutto was to move a privilege motion and a resolution in the National Assembly [NA] secretariat to discuss Jan 5 incident at Larkana.

Almost the entire PML (N) [Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz] parliamentary party took part in Sunday's proceedings sensing that there would be a lot of fireworks in the National Assembly.

However, according to NA secretariat sources, she had decided not to move any motion in the House.

Party sources said it was difficult to say at this stage that differences between the Bhutto ladies had been removed. But the sources sounded quite optimistic that the meeting held on Saturday night would ultimately lead to a rapprochment between the mother and the daughter.

'Temporary Truce' Viewed

BK1801075794 Islamabad THE NATION in English 18 Jan 94 p 11

[Editorial: "The Truce?"]

[Text] The apparent softening of Begum Nusrat Bhutto's attitude towards her daughter, after a long and bitter spate of recriminations, is being interpreted in political circles as a temporary truce, which could flare up again into open war at the slighter provocation. That provocation, if the allegations of arrest of two guards of 70-Clifton is to be believed, has already been provided. In the meantime Mir Murtaza Bhutto, though still behind bars, has announced the formation of a parallel organisation to the PPP [Pakistan People's Party], called the Bhutto group. He hopes to attract to it the truly 'sincere and dedicated' workers of the PPP. If and when the group takes off, it may or may not drain the mainstream PPP of its core, but it could certainly emerge as a splinter, capable of causing damage to the party in Sindh. The crucial factor in all this will obviously be the help and patronage of the Begum. Deprived of his mother's support the Murtaza faction could remain still-born. Therefore, the Prime Minister, in her own interest would perhaps try to keep her mother out of the divisive scheme that her brother has launched. She may try to acquire her mother's symbolic, if not actual, association with the main party. That of course, would not only be in the best interest of the PPP but also in the best interest of the evolution of a two-party system in the country. The split in the Muslim League has already done a lot of damage to that process. A split in the PPP would only aggravate that situation and would, in the days to come, make the forming of a stable government even more difficult.

The truce, if it holds, is the first hopeful sign in damage control since the unceremonious ouster of Begum Bhutto from the Chairpersonship of the PPP. But it obviously does not mean the end of the rift. The Begum has opted not to speak out for the time being, but there is no indication yet of her having given an inch on her demand of being restored to the office of Chairpersonship. Even if she were to accept a symbolic office to salve her hurt ego and give up the quest for the big prize, Mir Murtaza having already launched himself on his course of sister-bashing, is not likely to give up. The Begum could thus be instigated again and again by him to choose between the son whom she considers the legitimate heir of his father's legacy and her daughter who kept the party together and brought it twice to power. It may not thus be just a triangular fight within the family for the PPP crown, but an emotional divide within the Begum herself. Because, unless Mir Murtaza decides to rein in his overweening ambition, the Begum will eventually have to cast her lot with one or the other of her siblings. [as published]

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government. Users of this publication may cite FBIS or JPRS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying them as the secondary source.

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) and Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) publications contain political, military, economic, environmental, and sociological news, commentary, and other information, as well as scientific and technical data and reports. All information has been obtained from foreign radio and television broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, books, and periodicals. Items generally are processed from the first or best available sources. It should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed. Except for excluding certain diacritics, FBIS renders personal names and place-names in accordance with the romanization systems approved for U.S. Government publications by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [] are supplied by FBIS/JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how the information was processed from the original. Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear from the original source but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source. Passages in boldface or italics are as published.

SUBSCRIPTION/PROCUREMENT INFORMATION

The FBIS DAILY REPORT contains current news and information and is published Monday through Friday in eight volumes: China, East Europe, Central Eurasia, East Asia, Near East & South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and West Europe. Supplements to the DAILY REPORTs may also be available periodically and will be distributed to regular DAILY REPORT subscribers. JPRS publications, which include approximately 50 regional, worldwide, and topical reports, generally contain less time-sensitive information and are published periodically.

Current DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are listed in *Government Reports Announcements* issued semimonthly by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161 and the *Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications* issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The public may subscribe to either hardcover or microfiche versions of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications through NTIS at the above address or by calling (703) 487-4630. Subscription rates will be provided by NTIS upon request. Subscriptions are available outside the United States from NTIS or appointed foreign dealers. New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.

U.S. Government offices may obtain subscriptions to the DAILY REPORTs or JPRS publications (hardcover or microfiche) at no charge through their sponsoring organizations. For additional information or assistance, call FBIS, (202) 338-6735,or write to P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013. Department of Defense consumers are required to submit requests through appropriate command validation channels to DIA, RTS-2C, Washington, D.C. 20301. (Telephone: (202) 373-3771, Autovon: 243-3771.)

Back issues or single copies of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are not available. Both the DAILY REPORTs and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at many Federal Depository Libraries. Reference copies may also be seen at many public and university libraries throughout the United States.